

+ } **Pineapple Express Doles Out The Laughs**  
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PUBLISHER Todd Kozlowski | tkozlowski@see.greatwest.ca  
PROMOTIONS/SALES MANAGER Jeff Mah | jmah@see.greatwest.ca

ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR (ARTS, FILM) Paul Matwychuk | pmatwychuk@see.greatwest.ca  
MUSIC/CITY LIFE EDITOR Fawnda Mittush | fmittush@see.greatwest.ca

NEWS WRITER Angela Brunschat | abrunsch@see.greatwest.ca  
STAFF WRITER Andrew Paul | apaul@see.greatwest.ca

SALES CONSULTANT Robyn Charest | rcharest@see.greatwest.ca

SALES CONSULTANT Jason Mills | jmills@see.greatwest.ca

INSIDE SALES Angela Visscher | avisscher@see.greatwest.ca

PROMOTIONS ASSISTANT Fay Michelle Peltier | fpeltier@see.greatwest.ca

NATIONAL ADVERTISING Alan Fricker, Magazine Network | lan@magazine.com

DESIGNER Michael Nunweiler | mnunweiler@see.greatwest.ca

DESIGNER Melinda Bland | mbland@see.greatwest.ca

PRODUCTION EDITOR Shanda Edwards

PRODUCTION TEAM Barb Poliakowski

Christina Haggith, Lori Mitchell, Kris Beardsworth

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I CAN'T STAND HIS FUCKING CLOTHES. THEY MAKE ME WANT TO BURST MY OWN EYES BY SLIDING DOWN A QUONSET ONTO A PITCHFORK. IN THEIR GASBALL OF STINK, I WISH POLICE WOULD FINE HIM.

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PHOTO BY MICHAEL TRAVERS



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sunday

monday

tuesday

wednesday

thursday

friday

saturday



Powerman 5000, Jet Nightclub, August 9

AUGUST 10

music | OZZY OSBOURNE EXPERIENCE If you want the real Ozzy Osbourne experience, Calendar recommends biting off a bat's head. But most people aren't that hardcore, so check out this band instead. Blues on Whyte.

AUGUST 11

workshop | FAVA MONDAY NIGHT CLUB It usually takes months to create a film. However, our FAVA friends have discovered a way to condense the process into a three-hour miracle package. To learn more about this wizardry, visit [www.fava.ca](http://www.fava.ca), 7-10 pm.

AUGUST 12

music | TOM PETTY AND THE HEARTBREAKERS He just won't back down, that guy. Rexall Place, 7:30 pm.

AUGUST 13

comedy | SUGAR SAMMY Calendar knew this burgeoning comedian was destined for greatness when the Montreal Gazette said, "Sugar Sammy's destined for greatness." Need we say more? First of five shows. The Comic Strip, 8 pm.

AUGUST 14

theatre | "THE BIG KAHUNA" 27TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL FRINGE FESTIVAL The only thing that gets Calendar more excited than toga parties are Hawaiian-themed parties. Old Strathcona, [www.fringetheatredventures.ca](http://www.fringetheatredventures.ca).

AUGUST 15

running | ING EDMONTON MARATHON There's something satisfying about watching a glazed-eyed mob of fitness addicts stumble down the street, knowing that at any moment they might collapse with exhaustion. City Hall, 10 am-8 pm.

AUGUST 16

music | 2008 NATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL GRAND AWARD COMPETITION See if you can spot the musicians who use performance-enhancing drugs. With \$5,000 at stake, Calendar hopes there will be random drug tests. Winspear Centre, 7:30 pm.

AUGUST 17

carnival | OLD TIME PENNY CARNIVAL Pennies aren't much good for anything—aside from getting you kicked out of strip clubs. Fortunately the organizers at Rutherford House have devised a few other methods for disposing of this pesky coin. 12-4 pm.

AUGUST 18

music | FREE DAVIS ORGAN CONCERT Usually it's the doctor who gets to inspect your organs, but this time you can return the favour and watch Dr. Stuart Davis' organ get the once-over by the very talented Janet Chung. Winspear Centre, 12 pm.

AUGUST 19

sports | 2008 PRESIDENT'S CUP LACROSSE CHAMPIONSHIPS It's fast, violent, and one of the only bloodsports we have left. Sad, we know, but it's all the more reason to show support. Sherwood Park Arena Sports Centre, [www.rockymountainlacrosse.com](http://www.rockymountainlacrosse.com), 9 pm.

AUGUST 20

music | JORDAN COOK Calendar is all about orgasms—which is why if you haven't heard this young man, we feel sorry for you. This guy's amazing fingerwork is guaranteed to get you off. He also plays the guitar. Blues on Whyte, 9 pm.

AUGUST 21

sports | EDMONTON ESKIMOS Even if you're wondering why an Oompa Loompa is coaching our football team, a match-up between these two prairie behemoths is always a good reason to get crazy in the stands. Commonwealth Stadium, 7 pm.



Sugar Sammy, The Comic Strip, August 13

running | August 15 **"THERE'S SOMETHING SATISFYING ABOUT WATCHING A MOB OF GLAZED-EYED FITNESS ADDICTS STUMBLE DOWN THE STREET, KNOWING THAT AT ANY MOMENT THEY MIGHT COLLAPSE."**

**see magazine's two-week forecast of events in edmonton**

**listings:** news pg 9 | city pg 16 | music pg 27 | film caps pg 33 | arts pg 37

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—EDMONTON TRANSPORTATION MANAGER BOB BOUTILIER

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS · PUBLIC TRANSIT · BY ANDREW PAUL | 177 words

## Late-Night Buses Come With A Hefty Fare



Feel For Transit | Brian Gould has visions of late-night bus service dancing in his head. PHOTO BY MERYL SMITH LAWTON

### LRT PROJECTS AND HYBRID BUSES WILL ALSO GOBBLE A HUGE CHUNK OF ALBERTA'S \$2 BILLION TRANSIT FUND

Brian Gould dreams of a day when transit riders can catch a bus at 4 a.m. on Whyte Avenue after a night on the town.

The Transit Rider's Union of Edmonton member hopes the recently announced \$2-billion provincial transit fund will provide the fuel for that dream.

Edmonton is asking for a hefty chunk of the provincial money, and Gould would like to see the city use its share to fund 24-hour transit service.

But late-night buses are just one of many transit needs in the city, and Edmonton is one of many Alberta cities vying for the cash.

“While we’re very positive about the funding,” Gould says, “there’s a lot of concern that perhaps a lot of this money is going to go towards systems in smaller communities and other areas, rather than in bigger

centres where it’s needed the most.”

City transportation manager Bob Boutilier told the province he’s looking for \$800 million out of the \$2-billion fund, and he shares Gould’s concern that there might be too many municipal hands in the cookie jar to make the cash injection effective for Edmonton.

“Anything less than \$800 million and you begin to wonder where the rest of the money is going to go to make an impact,” Boutilier says.

It’s difficult to tell just how much other municipalities are going to be asking for. Officials from Calgary, Red Deer, and St. Albert say, they are unable to comment on the amount they will be seeking until further research is done.

Lethbridge, however, is looking to expand bus routes into the municipality’s industrial park, and is in the process of negotiating an inter-regional transit system with the neighbouring Blood Indian reserve.

“Even if we got \$10 million, there’s a lot we could do with that,” says Mayor Bob Tarleck. “The message

we’re trying to get out is that the provincial government can’t neglect the needs of mid-sized communities. We have a huge potential to be contributing to the economy of the province, and to the environment of the province.”

### Big Plans And Big Price Tags

The sum of \$800 million isn’t chump change, but expansion and an overheated construction industry puts the cost of planned LRT lines and new buses at \$1.8 billion.

City council’s plan to replace the old trolleys with new hybrid buses will mean forking out the cash for 47 new vehicles. At \$650,000 a piece for a hybrid bus, the cost of this project is \$30.5 million.

The fleet is also aging and every year an average of 30 buses are retired and replaced, adding another \$19.5 million to the tab.

Boutilier estimates that the city needs to increase the size of the fleet from the current 800 buses to 1,150 buses over the next 10 years to keep up with the city’s population growth.

That’s another \$227.5 million.

On top of the bus system, the city also has three LRT projects in various stages of production that could benefit from the provincial money.

The south extension of the LRT from the Health Sciences Station to Century Park will add 7.5 kilometres to the train route, and studies for an expansion from downtown to NAIT and the northeast addition of a line from Clareview to the transportation and utilities corridor are underway.

The estimated cost of the LRT developments is \$1.5 billion says Boutilier.

### Pack 'Em In!

The province has given municipalities until the fall to put their proposals together, and the decision for distribution will be based upon carbon footprint reduction.

According to a city council transit sustainability report in May, transit commuters are responsible for 15.1 per cent fewer greenhouse gases than the average motorist. Which means that to get the funding, the

city will have to prove that its plans significantly cut greenhouse gases.

In order to maximize the ridership, a few adjustments may have to be made to existing LRT plans—that could be problematic.

“The issue with the NAIT line,” Boutilier says, “is in order to get up to the 50,000 [ridership], we really need to get past NAIT and up to St. Albert. It’s going to turn into a regional issue—whether to integrate a regional bus system or collaborate on a shared commuter rail.”

Premier Ed Stelmach has said inter-city transit systems are a must, but Boutilier feels a deal to construct an inter-regional system similar to GO Transit in southern Ontario is a long way off.

The province will announce the distribution of the cash next spring. Gould says that if Edmonton receives the hoped-for \$800 million, transit riders will benefit enormously.

“The improvement in service would be huge,” he says. “It will be interesting to see where it all ends up.”



AUGUST 2, 2008 | 13:42:11 PM | PHOTO BY MERYL SMITH LAWTON

A curious child wanders up to one of the stages at Heritage Days in Hawrelak Park to get a better look at the dancers.

## WITNESS

## OUR COMMENT ON THIS WEEK'S NEWS

EDMONTON • ADS  
ELECTION LEFTOVERS

A bus bench ad for Bill Donahue, past provincial Progressive Conservative candidate in Edmonton-Centre, is still on display a full six months after the election. The ad on Jasper and 108 Street reads: "Let's take back the Capital."

In March the ads were curious. Who were the Tories taking the Capital back from? Voters? Their democratically elected representatives? But six months after Donahue's loss to longtime Liberal MLA Lauren Blakeman, the ads seem truly bizarre.

Gord Ganser from the ETS sales and promotions department says there must have been some kind of an administrative slip-up for the ad to still be on display. (Donahue couldn't be reached for comment.)

Political candidates sometimes leave campaign ads up after an election, placing a sticker on the bench thanking voters and volunteers for their support, he says, but never for longer than a month.

EDMONTON • PLANNING  
ACCESSING HAWRELAK PARK

In the buildup to Edmonton's much-loved Heritage Days, the city made an extra effort to explain to residents how to get into the park, and repeated that public parking will not be available during the festival. Special bus service was advertised on transit.

SEE, of course, welcomes any initiative that gets people out of their cars and onto a bus or a bike, but the reason so much explanation is needed is because the park is so inconveniently located for pedestrians. At other events, such as the Freewill Shakespeare Festival, the vast majority of attendees drive.

But citizens who come out of the park on foot are confronted with a maze of roads and barriers. Routine bus service to the vicinity of the park is very limited, especially at late hours.

Special bus service for one day is nice, but good planning year-round would be even better.

ALBERTA • HEALTHCARE  
THERE IS A PLAN—BUT IT'S A SECRET!

Controversy continues to swirl around the recent dissolution of Alberta's regional health boards because Health Minister Ron Liepert hasn't told the public the real reasons for the changes.

The *Edmonton Journal* revealed last week that the acting provincial officer of health was making up to \$60,000 less than those doing her job in Ontario and Manitoba.

The problem is we really don't have enough information to conduct a serious debate about the government's actions, and so critics' concerns about privatization, while certainly understandable given the Conservatives' track record, can sound unfounded.

The provincial Conservatives announced yet another major policy change this week (namely, funding for private schools) that was not debated during the election.

The province desperately needs more substantive debate on these issues. And citizens of all political stripes should demand it.

## BY THE NUMBERS

TIGHT RACE?  
ELECTION SPENDING PER VOTE IN EDMONTON CENTRE

\*SOURCE: ELECTIONS ALBERTA



# Deficit Could Spell Doom For Tories

**IN EXILE EVERYWHERE THE EXILE  
THE TORIES ARE SLASHING  
TAXES AND SPENDING, AND  
CUTTING THEMSELVES OUT OF  
GOVERNMENT ALONG THE WAY**

Stephen Harper could finally get his election this fall, but it won't be the one he wants.

Harper's Tories have passed controversial legislation on immigration, taxation, and the environment over the last several months, practically daring Stéphane Dion's Liberals to defeat them. The Liberals, afraid of a wipeout at the polls, meekly abstained from direct confrontation, allowing the Conservative minority to govern like a majority.

But in October, the opposition parties will get yet another chance to pull down the government when the House of Commons votes on Finance Minister Jim Flaherty's fiscal update. The resulting election could kick Harper and crew to the crib, if Canadians hold them to account for the

financial troubles they've caused.

Caught between lower corporate taxes, lower GST revenues, and a seven per cent increase in government spending, Canada's government started the current fiscal year with an \$864 million deficit in April. In spite of the massive setback from a \$2 billion surplus during the same period last year, Finance Minister Flaherty says he intends to continue implementing the five-year \$60 billion tax cut package that was launched in 2007.

Flaherty still expects the government to meet its goal of a \$2.3 billion surplus over the course of the year, but declining revenues are bound to make deficits more likely. This year's surplus relies on the financial injection of \$4.25 billion from the just-completed auction of wireless airwave licences, a one-time event.

So why imperil the country's string of 11 consecutive budget surpluses, particularly during uncertain economic times? To provide a rationale

for slashing government spending and eviscerating key programs, along the lines of what happened across the country in the 1990s.

Tom Flanagan, Reform-Alliance-Conservative policy guru and former Harper chief of staff, explicitly described the government's long-term strategy to hobble federal spending powers when the 2008 federal budget was released last March. As believers in Republican-style small government, except when it comes to military and other security spending, the ideologues in charge of this government intend to remake Canada along American lines. And decisively winning a new election would secure the time and parliamentary backing to do so.

An October election call would allow the Tories to go to the polls claiming that the government was still running a surplus while fulfilling infrastructure and other spending commitments to the provinces and simultaneously championing tax cuts.

Perhaps the Tories believe they have undercut provincial opposition to them through flashy one-time deals, particularly in Ontario, where a \$6.2 billion infrastructure deal has been reached with the re-elected provincial Liberal government, until now one of the federal government's loudest and most hostile critics.

But even a re-elected Harper government would run the risk of obliteration if they followed the example

of Mike Harris, the Progressive Conservative Ontario premier famous for chasing tax cuts with spending cuts. The strategy challenged the core of programs most Canadians believe in, like healthcare and environmental protection.

If the Tories suddenly switch from spending to cutting, and base the change on a deficit they created, they will lack credibility and set the stage for open war with the provinces.

And of course, Canadians, whom polls show have decreasing confidence in the economy, might actually place blame for impending financial disaster where it belongs—with the Conservatives.

*inexileeverywhere@gmail.com*

## Letters

### WHICH IS IT, BRIAN MASON?

It's hard to understand Brian Mason's comments in last week's Greenpeace feature ("Attention Headache," SEE #766).

At first Mason states they've supported Greenpeace's efforts all along, a statement I find hard to believe when they failed to support a Greenpeace activist who also worked for them, and as a result lost her job. But then Mason goes on to state that withdrawal of international interest in the tar sands economy would be a "risk." It's unclear whether he understands that's exactly what Greenpeace is attempting to accomplish. By removing international economic support for the dirty oil production, the tar sands could effectively be

shut down.

Which is it, Mason? The NDP's position on the tar sands and Alberta's environmental activists has been unclear since the last election, but it's time they took a clear stand for Albertans.

SAMANTHA POWER

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO SEE VIA E-MAIL ([LETTERS@SEE.GREATWEST.CA](mailto:LETTERS@SEE.GREATWEST.CA)), BY POST (SEE MAGAZINE, #200, 10275 JASPER AVE, EDMONTON, AB, T5J 1X8), OR FAX ((780) 432-1102). LETTERS MAY BE EDITED FOR LENGTH OR CLARITY. PREFERENCE IS GIVEN TO LETTERS RESPONDING TO ARTICLES IN SEE MAGAZINE.

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**LET'S INVITE THE ELEPHANT INTO THE ROOM** UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA (ADDRESS NOTIFIED ON REGISTRATION) National Summit of the Canadian Youth Climate Coalition (CYCC) Register@ [www.ourclimate.ca](http://www.ourclimate.ca)

**ACTIVISM**

### ACTIVIST AGENDA

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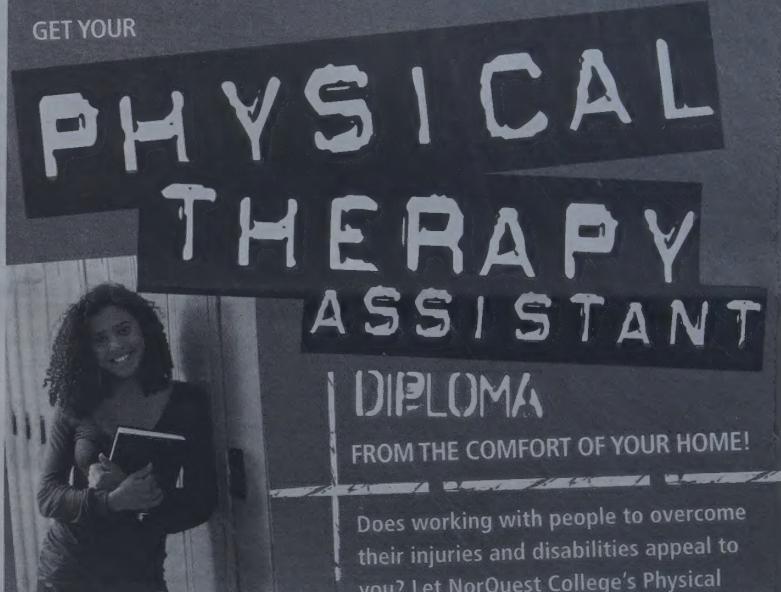
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PROFILE • HOUSING CO-OPERATIVES • BY JESSICA EARLE | 923 words

## In A Co-op Down By The River



La Vie Boheme | Tobin Thompson, Erich Welz, and Jacque Day of the Golden Lentils Lodge share dinner on a typical weeknight at the co-op. PHOTO SUPPLIED

**YOUR THREATS OF LEAVING THE RAT RACE AND LIVING IN AN ARTISTS' COMMUNE AREN'T SO IMPLAUSIBLE AFTER ALL**

The spacious living room of Golden Lentils Lodge is a testament to almost 40 years of communal living: artwork by past and current tenants adorn the walls, plants sprout from every crevice, guitars without owners line the entrance hall, and a cardboard lampost cut-out from some bygone theatre production stands propped up against the wall.

With more and more of Edmonton surrendering to the viral trend of big-box stores, condo developments, and gentrified neighbourhoods, it's comforting to remember a different mentality still exists in continuing housing co-operatives. Members of such living arrangements possess no equity or ownership apart from their shares, which are equal among neighbours and are sold back to the co-op when they move out. Costs are dealt with internally and no one member can profit from the space. The ethos is quite utopian, indeed.

"It's odd to be living in a house that no one really owns. I had trouble wrapping my head around this when I got here," says Erich Welz, GM External of the Assiniboia Co-operative, as he surveys the motley charm of his environment. "These houses are pretty much untouchable. I look

at them as a gift."

Unlike Edmonton's other 37 continuing housing co-operatives, which offer self-contained units and waitlists of up to six years, Assiniboia consists of three separate houses in the University area that collectively offer 17 single-dwelling arrangements. This co-op tends to cater to individuals in their 20s, and Welz says that with 14 current residents, it is the only housing co-op in Edmonton that is actively seeking members.

Now in its 37th year of operation, Assiniboia is no longer affiliated with

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**"I GUESS A LOT OF THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE HERE ARE A LITTLE BIT COUNTERCULTURE, MYSELF INCLUDED," WELZ SAYS. EVERYONE IN THE CO-OP IS VEGETARIAN, NO ONE DRIVES, AND THREE OUT OF FIVE MEMBERS BICYCLE THROUGH THE WINTER.**

the U of A, and is home to an even mix of students and non-students. The cost of staying in one of the rooms ranges from \$230-\$260 per month. Unique to this co-operative is the requirement that each member chip in \$40 for communal shopping and cook for the rest of the house once a week. The chores are also delegated in a systematic way, and all members are expected to be present when housing candidates are being interviewed.

"I think the main difference be-

"I guess a lot of the people who live here are a little bit counterculture, myself included," Welz says. Everyone in the co-op is vegetarian, no one drives, and three out of five members bicycle through the winter. While he says co-op members defy the patchouli-wearer stereotype, he does admit that their setup does have a whiff of *Children of the Corn* about it. "It does take a little more time to live in such a fashion," he says. "We all have our roles to keep the house going [strong]."

a tie-dye shirt in hues as vibrant as her passion for community development. "[In a co-op] you know your neighbours and you're responsible for more than just your own environment."

Members of ArtSpace must purchase \$1,000 worth of shares in the co-operative upon signing up, and participate on committees that keep the co-operative running. Collectively, they are also responsible for creating their own by-laws. Unlike Assiniboia, which operates without

any grants, 50 per cent of ArtSpace's 88 units are subsidized by the government. The co-operative's VP of Membership, Marlene Garner, believes this allowance for mixed income creates a community with a wide variety of people.

"We've had lawyers, nurses, teachers, and yet we have single mothers too," says Garner. "Honestly, I've been surprised at the different types of people we've had." ArtSpace offers two to five bedroom units ranging in price from \$728 to \$1,200 per month.

While both Baldwin and Garner believe co-operatives are one of the most efficient forms of low-income housing and that it would be in the interest of the government to create more, they are bothered by the perception that housing co-operatives just mean cheap rent. "It's a community, it's not just the rent," says Garner, who says the social structure of the co-operative buoyed her up during retirement. The entire complex attends potlucks, Halloween festivities, balcony decoration contests, and many other communal functions. Most members will turn up on Nov. 1 to celebrate the co-operative's 18th birthday.

"I love the idea that I know everybody," says Garner. "It's an important feeling of belonging to this community. It's not just a place to live, it's a place to make a home."

# Ugly Whyte



HIDDEN NINJA FISH GRIWKOWSKY

**TODD BABIAK IS THE LATEST PERSON TO DEMAND THAT WHYTE AVE PRETTY ITSELF UP, BUT WHAT IF IT CAN'T?**

One of my favourite writers on the continent is Todd Babiak. Not even because we posed slightly nude together back in university, either. It's all about his talent, the way he sneaks words in like Updike. He has a maturity that I'd never survive inside of but totally respect. Nervously captivating are his books. And frankly, the guy dances better than I do.

But all this aside, I can't stand his fucking clothes. They make me want to burst my own eyes by sliding down a Quonset onto a pitchfork. In their gasball of fashion stink, I wish police would fine him so much money that his children have to go to community college instead of university.

Of course, I'm lying—and Todd's outfits are, well, I can't say I remember being mad at even one of them. But last week I was eating exactly two bacon-and-eggers in the mountains and reading half that many of his commentaries about vinyl signs

**SO, FIRST OFF, LET'S ADMIT ALL MODERN SIGNS SEEM TO BE DESIGNED BY THE SAME FOLKS WHO MAKE PIZZA POP PACKAGES AND FOX NEWS: NO CLASS, ALL SPLASH. THE LAST GREAT AND NOTABLE NEON BEAUTY ON 82ND CAME DOWN IN THE SOOT OF HUB CIGAR.**

on Whyte in the old tut-tutty *Journal*. Babs was, in effect, shaking a raised hand for teacher and telling on Woonly Bullys, Mars & Venus, and Megatunes in the same voice that made me hate most girls back in elementary school. How? By demanding these businesses be brought to justice for making Strathcona ugly—the Fringe approaching, and all.

Okay, are you kidding me? Not even taking into account the basics of "fuck the Fringe," which actually subtracts lots of business from Whyte and adds broken windows, noise, and garbage, I must sigh that Todd is quite wrong here, both in terms of morals and accuracy. And in the name of those he slighted, I'm going public.

Disclosure forces me to first admit that I'm friends with people inside MSGV and Megatunes, who were all understandably annoyed at getting picked on again. The record industry is an especially tough fight in 2008, so having someone vaguely suggest

everyone boycott your store over superficial "signage," as the suits call it, while you're struggling to pay ridiculous rents, well... ungentlemanly language does get used.

So, first off, let's admit all modern signs seem to be designed by the same folks who make pizza pop packages and FOX News: no class, all splash. The last great and notable neon beauty on 82nd came down in the soot of Hub Cigar. I mean, the Princess marquee is okay at best, unless you really take some time and dig through Flickr history pages on the subject in cities that actually had serious paper during the '30s.

Whyte may be lots of fun, but let's face facts: it's just not a very good-looking place. No natural wonder, with maybe one nice small-town landmark in the sometimes-functioning clock tower. But even *that* ain't all that. More proof the Old Strathcona Business Association does fuck-all but annoy vendors by asking for money and jabber—oh, and displace homeless beggars. Spot the irony.

But I'm with Todd in a way on this: if I had the power, I'd wipe all the signs clean, everywhere, like some *Adbusters* Photoshop fantasy—just have great works of art above the doors we'd associate with each ice cream hawker or bookshop. Store signs are the original pop-up ads and most of them made in the last 30 years would never end up on some

**SO, FIRST OFF, LET'S ADMIT ALL MODERN SIGNS SEEM TO BE DESIGNED BY THE SAME FOLKS WHO MAKE PIZZA POP PACKAGES AND FOX NEWS: NO CLASS, ALL SPLASH. THE LAST GREAT AND NOTABLE NEON BEAUTY ON 82ND CAME DOWN IN THE SOOT OF HUB CIGAR.**

art collector's wall in 2093, you must agree, with the possible exception of Mister Suede. (Is that even still around?)

It's one of those things we don't question much in our culture. Signs take over our heads without permission. It's why I hate the Listen graffiti as much as I hate Telus ads. One of the big reasons I love going to Japan is I can't understand all the words over my head. They're just pretty shapes. It's calming, liberating.

But whatever, and I will always love you, Todd (and your clothes). It's just the main thing that makes the Fringe ugly isn't a couple of budget signs: it's all the tourists who dress like wrestlers, campers, and hookers, act like shitheads, and above all apply their ridiculous, entitled mall standards to a bunch of businesses who would rather K-Days South (a.k.a. the beloved Fringe midway) relocated itself inside a nuclear explosion on the moon. Which, you have to admit, would be kinda pretty.

# Sobriety Bucks

**THIS WEEK'S 50 BUCKER KEEPS HIMSELF DISTRACTED FROM DRINKING WITH GOOD, CLEAN FUN AND ORANGE JUICE**

Sometimes there's little else to do in Edmonton but drink your face off, and I've done more than my fair share of that lately. If you're in recovery, it can be hard recalling other things you could be spending your money on.

## \$10: Banana Cream Pie, Bee Bell Bakery

In my efforts to get away from Whyte Avenue, I come across the Bee Bell Bakery. I look through the glass and see a great banana cream pie, and my sweet tooth just about chews its way clear through my cheek. The pie is boxed up and I carry it down the street gingerly. I want the pie. Now, I sit in front of When Pigs Fly and eat the entire thing.

## \$25: Shopping Spree, Value Village

When I was drinking a lot, some-

times I'd be trying hard not to upchuck my suds walking across the Mill Creek Bridge, instead of clutching my arse shut while trying to keep a whole fucking pie from coming out. Suffice it to say the detour I make to the Value Village restroom is not entirely an ill outing after I wash my hands and start pawing through the racks. I find an Egyptian blue china ashtray, an antique ether bottle (empty, of course), a doctor's smock, and one very priestly terrycloth shirt with mandarin button loops—this I put on immediately.

## \$10: Significant Fun at Heritage Days

Feeling very ethnic and at some sort of strange peace in my new garb, I make my way over to the Heritage Festival in Hawrelak Park. Twelve tickets for \$10 and many, many diverse versions of "meat on a stick." I deviate and get a roast cob of corn, then a plate of lovely vegetables and bean samosas served with bread resem-

bling a washcloth from the Eritrean tent. The best thing about Heritage Days is that the park is big enough to have quiet, secluded places to picnic, and I find one across the duck pond and along a trail right to the riverbank.

## \$2.50 Non-Alc Pub Crawl

Okay, it's getting dark now and it's Saturday night. It's difficult to avoid alcohol when most people I know are at the bar right now, but who says you have to souse yourself to be at the Black Dog? "I'll have an orange juice, please," and with a raised eyebrow the stuff is squeezed into a glass from a plastic bottle that looks like a rubber chicken. I'm not charged anything for it, which is fortunate because it tastes like root beer. I down a few of these babies and make my way over to the Savoy, where it's even harder for them to grasp the concept of "just orange juice." They produce the same funny bottle and charge me \$2.50 for it, and it tastes like cola.

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# No Grapes Allowed

## ONCE A FORBIDDEN UNDERTAKING, WINES ARE NOW BEING MADE WITH FRUIT AND BERRIES GALORE

Let's face it: Canada is a pretty harsh place for grapes. Given the viticultural challenges, it's no wonder our winemaking industry is still in its youth. Yet while the grape is a relative newcomer to Canada, many types of locally-grown fruit have been made into wine for centuries; fruit wines are quite common in countries where the climate is inhospitable for most grape varieties.

Fruit wine production comes with its own set of unique challenges. Grapes are somewhat of a miracle fruit (even though they don't really work with the rest of the rhyme); sufficient amounts of sugar, acid, tannin, and water occur naturally in the berries so they can be easily made into wine. In contrast, most other types of fruit don't have enough sugar to ferment properly, so it must be added, either in the form of table sugar or a more natural source like honey or even tree sap. Alternatively, the wine may be made from a blend of different fruits, including ones with higher sugar levels like raisins or dates. In addition, acid levels are often much higher than your average grape, so the crushed fruit is often diluted to reduce tartness.

Fruit wines, even red ones, should be served chilled just like white grape wines. They will also last for about the same amount of time once opened—two to four days, if you keep them refrigerated, and about a week if you use a preservative spray or a vacuum pump.

An important thing to keep in mind is that fruit wines do not improve



A Cornucopia Of Bocozery! They may be sweet, but fruit wines are full of alcohol. PHOTO BY MELISSA PRIESTLEY

with age. On the contrary, they deteriorate rather rapidly and lose their primary fruit flavours, often gaining unpleasant, weedy, and rank aromas. They should be consumed well within a year of being made.

### HOMEGROWN GOODNESS

Though it was only recently that Albertans were allowed to operate cottage wineries (2005 to be exact),

there are already a couple fruit wineries in our province. En Santé, located near Two Hills, was founded by Victor and Elizabeth Chrapko, former pig farmers who diversified into fruit production in the late 1990s. Their orchards, which were the first certified organic orchards in Alberta, grow 21 different varieties of fruits. Since 1997 they have perfected doz-

ens of fruit wine recipes—look for wines made from Saskatoon berries, apples, and even alfalfa!

Alberta's other fruit winery is Fieldstone Fruit Wines, located near Strathmore, which opened just before En Santé in 2005. This winery focuses on making fruit wines from berries. The wines were developed by Dominic Rivard, who has worked

extensively in the fruit wine industry—he helped establish fruit wineries in China, Bangkok, and numerous Canadian provinces and was also a consultant to the government and Albertan fruit growers at the outset of our fledgling fruit wine industry. Fieldstone's berry wines are made with as much care and qualification as any good French wine. Check out their brand new Strawberry-Rhubarb blend.

### ACROSS THE ROCKIES

As you might expect, B.C. has several fruit wines made from the numerous orchards blanketing the Okanagan's hills. One of the most renowned is Elephant Island, located in the Naramata Bench. The winery was founded in 1999 by Miranda and Del Halladay in partnership with Miranda's grandmother, Catherine Wisnicki. The winemaker, Christine Leroux, trained at the prestigious L'Institut d'Oenologie de Bordeaux in France. Like Rivard, she has applied the rigorous vineyard practices and intricate technical skills used to make fine grape wines, and the results are delicious, world-class fruit wines. The winery makes dinner, dessert, and even sparkling wines crafted from such fruits as apricots, peaches, and blackcurrants.

Forbidden Fruit Winery is located in B.C.'s Similkameen Valley. It specializes in making 100 per cent certified organic wines from 60 different varieties of tree fruit. The winery's name has a double meaning; it derives from the creation story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, and it also reflects the past status of both organic produce and fruit wines, which were thought to be "forbidden" commercial territory explored only by hobbyists. This is not the case anymore, but it certainly makes for some saucy labels. Their wines are made under contract by Dominic Rivard (I told you he was everywhere). Though they do make a few dry table wines, it is with their fortified dessert wines that they truly shine. I especially love their Pomme Desirée, which is made from six varieties of apples and is mind-blowingly delicious—like liquid apple pie.

Even the East Coasters have gotten into fruit winemaking—the Rodrigues Winery in Newfoundland has made fruit wine since the early '90s. These wines are also certified kosher—the only Canadian wines with this designation. Rodrigues primarily produces wines made from berries in both dry and sweet styles. I'm particularly fond of their Wild Blueberry. They also have a distillery that makes several fruit-based brandies and liqueurs. I chair!



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Copies of the Bill and related information are available online at:

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# myLook

Jane Penny | Outreach Assistant, Latitude 53  
BY MICHAEL TRAVERS

**My Look:** Redneck Casual.

**Hair:** Hair isn't really a priority for me.

**Wearing:** The shoes are from the Mennonite Centre thrift shop, the tights are from Simons in Montreal. I got the belt from Value Village, and the dress is from Gravity Pope. The jean jacket is GWG—I think they used to make them in Edmonton—and my sister got me the red kitty pin in London.

**Into:** Film. My favourite Cronenberg movie is *Scanners*, my favorite filmmaker is Agnès Varda. I learned how to crochet this summer, but I've been outside most of the time.

Want to be in My Look? Send your photo to [style@see.greatwest.ca](mailto:style@see.greatwest.ca).



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# 15 minutes

Christy Campos | El Salvadorean Dancer

PHOTO BY MERYL SMITH LAWTON

**Q&As WITH EDMONTONIANS** BY ANDREW PAUL

**What country are you representing here at Heritage Days?**

We're representing El Salvador. Our purpose is to just show our heritage—to show our dances from the country because a lot of people here, even if their parents were born in El Salvador, still might not have an idea of the heritage. We were dancing folklore. It's

like a traditional dance from the country.

**Who comes to watch you perform?**

I'm new to this group, but we get everyone. There's all sorts of people that come to watch and learn.

**Are there many people from El Salvador**

**that come to watch, or is your audience mostly from other nations?**

Yes, lots of people from El Salvador come to watch, but they don't know too much about the dancing traditions over there, whereas their parents might. So we're bringing that back and trying to show people what their roots are.

**Where were you born?**

I was born here, and my parents are from El Salvador.

**Why did they move to Canada?**

Just for better opportunity, I guess.

**What do you think an event like**

**Heritage Days says about Edmonton?**

It shows a lot of culture and diversity. It's great to see all of the people come together.

**What is your favourite part of Heritage Days?**

I've seen a lot of the dances and it's really nice to see that from the other countries.

**What country has the best dancing?**

We were looking at Ethiopia. They have really nice dances.

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DINING • BREAKFAST • BY MONTE KRUEGER (747 words)

# The Imperfect Omelet



El Dorado | In a city where staff shortages and inexperience are norm, Jay Bee's staff are a breath of fresh air. PHOTO BY MERYL SMITH LAWTON

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There are quintessential summer experiences that stay with you for a lifetime, and each year when our winter of discontent is once again made glorious summer, I find myself awaiting those few magic moments. Moments like stepping into the backyard on a warm afternoon to the smell of raspberries baking on the vines, or cool, moist dill-scented night air... But more than anything, when I think of summer, I think of road trips, the open highway, and, of course, truck-stop food.

I don't know why, but there's some-

**JAY BEE'S IS HARD TO DESCRIBE. IT LOOKS LIKE IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN A SMITTY'S OR WHITE SPOT ONCE UPON A TIME, BUT ITS DÉCOR IS ODDLY PLEASING AND SOMEWHAT REMINISCENT OF THE DINER HONEY BUNNY AND RINGO TRY TO HOLD UP IN PULP FICTION.**

thing sinfully delightful about pulling into a truck stop with a "what happens in Innisfree stays in Innisfree" attitude, and ordering the greasy, honest fare that I'd never allow myself otherwise. I'm sad to say, however, that I haven't managed to get away from work long enough for a road trip, and upon coming to this realization, I hurriedly piled the kids into the truck and informed them that we were going to "get Daddy's trucker on."

This being Edmonton—which I believe is a Celtic word meaning "an Albert's Family Diner on every corner"—I wasn't sure exactly where we were heading. I know numerous Humpty's and Denny's locations

where I can get dodgy breakfast fare, as well as touted favourites like the Sugarbowl and High Level Diner, but I wanted something grittier. I wanted a place that work crews would frequent, and that's when I remembered a friend's recommendation about Jay Bee's in Beverly.

Jay Bee's is hard to describe. It looks like it might have been a Smitty's or White Spot once upon a time, but its décor is oddly pleasing and somewhat reminiscent of the diner Honey Bunny (aka Yolanda) and Ringo try to hold up in *Pulp Fiction*. We grabbed a booth along the window and were immediately greeted by a smiling, coffee-carrying woman whose nametag read Frances—but she wasn't fooling me. She was from Alice and just about the sweetest and most professional server ever. In an age when "good service"

room omelets at dinner parties, and given copies of Elizabeth David's *An Omelette and a Glass of Wine* as birthday, wedding, and Christmas gifts. I had absolutely no delusions, however, that I most certainly wouldn't be getting a classic French omelet at Jay Bee's: instead of a gently folded pancake of egg rolled around a slab of creamy French cheese, I was dealt a brown crusty layer of egg that had been cooked on a grill and cracked in half to accommodate some good old cheddar. The whole thing was then placed under a broiler to melt the cheese before being adorned with heaps of hashbrowns and hurried to my table. Perfect. As for those hashbrowns, they were grated potatoes that had been batch-cooked on the same grill and held in a steam table before being heaped in mounds onto waiting plates of eggs and various

typically consists of a marginally helpful 12-year-old who doesn't tell you to eff off after getting your order wrong. Frances was like a shimmering fountain of hope that made me say aloud with hands raised in praise: "El Dorado." She slipped in and out effortlessly, calling other patrons by name, offering side bits of chatter while adjusting orders and providing menu guidance. Then, without ever really realizing we had ordered, she magically appeared with our food, a smile, and more coffee! Brilliant.

I ordered a ham and cheese omelet (\$8.50, most items are between \$7 and \$9). I love omelets and can go on at length about why they're the perfect food. I've served porcini mush-

fatty meats. (The menu isn't too extensive—mostly fried eggs and grilled meat.) Don't get me wrong: the food was perfect. Real potatoes, cooked honestly and served to an appreciative audience, and a hearty omelet, although somewhat greasy, served without pretension to a very hungry man. I definitely had my trucker on.

As I stepped out onto the street after breakfast, I realized my visit to Jay Bee's had done relatively little to satiate my need for a road trip, and a drive to the "306" was likely still in the offing. Nonetheless, I left with the reassurance that I had discovered one heck of a good breakfast, and was well on my way to creating a new quintessential summer experience.

**LATITUDE**  
CONTEMPORARY VISUAL CULTURE

**ROOFTOP PATIO SERIES**

\*late night series finale august 14th 4:30pm - 11:30pm\*  
visit [latitude53.org](http://latitude53.org) or call 780.423.5353 for more information on weekly hosts and exhibits

ALAN RICKMAN BILL PULLMAN CHRIS PINE RACHAEL TAYLOR FREDDY RODRIGUEZ ELIZA DUSHKU DENNIS FARINA BRADLEY WHITFORD

## CRITICS ARE TOASTING THIS SUMMER'S MOST ENTERTAINING MOVIE!

### "HUGELY ENTERTAINING!"

THERE'S MAGIC IN IT. RICKMAN IS DROLL, DAZZLING PERFECTION. BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR 'BOTTLE SHOCK,' IT'S A WINNER!"

-Peter Travers, ROLLING STONE

### "YOU ARE GOING TO LOVE THIS MOVIE!"

ONE OF THE YEAR'S MOST ENTERTAINING FILMS, LIKE THE DISCOVERY OF ANOTHER 'SIDEWAYS' OR 'LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE,' JUST AS UNEXPECTED AND JUST AS GOOD. A PURE DELIGHT!"

-Pete Hammond, HOLLYWOOD.COM

### "'ROCKY' FOR WINE AFICIONADOS."

THIS INTELLIGENT, AFFECTIONATE, BEAUTIFULLY ACTED MOVIE GIVES CROWD-PLEASERS A GOOD NAME."

-Stephen Farber, THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

**BOTTLE SHOCK**  
BASED ON A TRUE STORY OF LOVE, VICTORY, AND FERMENTATION.

IN THEATRES FRIDAY, AUGUST 15TH!

## EVENTS

## BACKYARD COMPOSTING AND GRASSCYCLING

WORKSHOP AUG 6 7 PM, JOHN DANZEN NATURE CENTRE. A comprehensive guide to composting. \$10 at the door. Call 780-495-2925.

## CARIWEST COSTUME EXTRAVAGANZA AUG 6 7 PM,

MAVFIELD INN AND SUITES TRADE CENTRE, 1655 109 AVE. Children under six free.

## CARIWEST FESTIVAL AUG 9 9 PM, SHAMAL

SHRIMPERS HALL, 14510 142 ST. \$30 general admission.

## THE CARROT ARTS MARKET EVERY SAT 10 AM-2 PM,

THE CARROT ARTS COFFEEHOUSE, 9351 110 AVE. Artists and artisans from the community and beyond share unique gifts, crafts, and artwork. Info: [www.thecarrot.ca](http://www.thecarrot.ca).

## EDMONTON FOLK FESTIVAL UNTIL AUGUST 10 GALLAGHER PARK

Visit [www.edmontonfolkfest.org](http://www.edmontonfolkfest.org).

## EDMONTON HISTORICAL TRANSIT TOURS UNTIL

AUG 23 Departure from the north side of City Hall. Local historians take you back in time to visit Edmonton's past as a part of 100 years of public transit.

## I-HUMAN SILENT AUCTION AUG 15 7 PM, THE ARTERY,

9555 108 AVE. Purchase art for a good cause. Call 780-475-0777.

## INVESTOR SEMINAR AUG 12 6:30 PM, RAMADA HOTEL

AND CONFERENCE CENTRE, 11834 KINGSWAY NW. Learn how to purchase apartment buildings in the US. RSVP at 1-800-760-4909.

## PHOTO TRANSFER AND COLLAGE FOR YOUTH AUG 14,

1-4 PM, PROFILES PUBLIC ART GALLERY, 19 PERRON ST. ST.

ALBERTA Contemporary artists lead workshop in creating art combining images and text. 780-460-4310.

## PRISON JUSTICE DAY AUG 10 11 AM-6 PM, UKRAINIAN

HALL, 11018 95 ST. A benefit show and workshops focussing on myths of Canada's justice system.

## SUMMER ROOFTOP PATIO SERIES EVERY THU UNTIL

AUG 14 4:30 PM-9 PM. LATITUDE 52 GALLERY ROOFTOP

Munchies and drinks. DJs, and lots of fun people. Info: [www.latitude52.org](http://www.latitude52.org).

## VEGAN/VEGETARIAN POTLUCK AUG 10 &amp; 14 RIVERDALE

COMMUNITY HALL, 9231 100 AVE. Share vegetarian dishes

and swap recipes. [www.vofa.ca](http://www.vofa.ca).

780-469-0399.

**HIP MAMAS MEET-UP** Young mothers and their babies meet several times a week. Free to join, plenty of friends to be made. Info: <http://hipmamas.meetup.com/051>.

**ILLUSIONS SOCIAL CLUB 2ND THU EVERY MONTH 8 PM,** WOODS, 2ND FL., 1722 JASPER AVE. Cross-dressers, transsexuals, friends, and supporters meet. Info: 780-367-3343 or [groups.yahoo.com/group/edmonton\\_illusions](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/edmonton_illusions).

**IMAGES ALBERTA CAMERA CLUB 2ND AND 4TH THU EVERY MONTH, 8 PM, SEP-MAY, PLEASEVIEW COMMUNITY HALL, 10860 57 AVE. Presentations, speakers, workshops, outings, monthly and year-end competitions. Photographic enthusiasts of all levels welcome. Info: [www.imagesab.com](http://www.imagesab.com) or Sheila, 780-469-9716; Murfy, 780-452-6224.**

**INNOVATORS' NETWORKING CLUB TUE, 7:30 AM-1 PM,** CAFE SELECT SOUTH, 109 ST. 84 AVE. Business networking group, mixer, and club membership info. Info: Dwayne, 780-463-6240 or [www.innovators.ca](http://www.innovators.ca).

**MKP MEN'S GROUP EVERY MON, 7 PM,** Men's meeting and initiation. Info: [www.mkp.org](http://www.mkp.org) or Garrett, 780-452-5107.

**N'ORATORS TOASTMASTERS CLUB WED, 7:45 PM,** LONDONDERRY PUBLIC LIBRARY, 137 AVE. 66 ST. Learn to speak clearly and with confidence in a supportive group. Info: [www.norators.ca](http://www.norators.ca).

**NORWOOD TOASTMASTERS CLUB THU, 8-10 PM, 10425 KINGSWAY AVE.** Improve your speaking and communication skills in a fun and educational environment. Info: 780-465-3934 or [www.norwoodtoastmasters.org](http://www.norwoodtoastmasters.org).

**POWER SPEAKERS TOASTMASTERS CLUB WED 7-9 PM,** GRAND MACEWAN COLLEGE CENTRE FOR THE ARTS, RM 437. Learn to speak with confidence in a supportive environment. Info: 780-732-0693 or [www.powerspeakers.ca](http://www.powerspeakers.ca).

**SUPPORT GROUP FOR WOMEN'S ISSUES** Weekly drop-in meetings, providing resources and information on self-esteem, mental health, and employment. Men welcome to attend. Info: 780-496-5930.

**TOUTEETTE SYNDROME SUPPORT 1ST WED EVERY MONTH (OCT-JUNE), 7 PM, ACADEMY OF KING EDWARD, 8525 101 ST. NORTH DOWNTOWN.** Meeting for Tots adults and parents of Tots kids. Info: 866-824-9764.

**UPWARD BOUND TOASTMASTERS CLUB WED, 7-8 PM,** PM, RM 601, NORQUEST COLLEGE, 11205 105 ST. Improve listening, speaking, and overall communication skills. Info: Roger 780-454-3720; Theresa 780-468-4098; or [adams@telus.ca](mailto:adams@telus.ca).

**WEST-END TOASTMASTER CLUB TUE, 6-45 PM, 10425 PLACE LIBRARY, 1010 156 ST.** Friendly environment of personal progress and mutual support. Info: 780-495-5424.

**WOW-WOW ON WEDNESDAYS 8 PM, 11 AM-1:15 PM, THREE BANANAS CAFE, CHURCHILL SQUARE** An eclectic creative writing group, welcoming both professional and amateur writers. Suggested donation \$10. Monthly meetings. Info: [writing@3bananas.ca](mailto:writing@3bananas.ca).

**YOGA DANCE** 1ST WED EVERY MONTH, 7 PM, ACADEMY OF KING EDWARD, 8525 101 ST. NORTH DOWNTOWN. Meeting for Tots adults and parents of Tots kids. Info: 866-824-9764.

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**CLUB LULU LULULEMON, 10544 82 AVE.** Weekly activities to get you moving. Info: [www.lululemon.com](http://www.lululemon.com), 780-435-9363 or [whyte\\_community@lululemon.com](mailto:whyte_community@lululemon.com).

**COMMUNITY WEIGHT-LOSS CHALLENGE 5 LOCATIONS** 6-week course on dieting and active lifestyles. Info: [Carla\\_780-966-0185](mailto:Carla_780-966-0185).

**CONSTELLATION** EVERY 3RD THU 7 PM, 1041 37 AVE. A unique healing process, transforming past burdens into positive affirmations. Info: 780-967-9162 or [constellations.ca](mailto:constellations.ca).

**FEAST CLASSY CLASS** EVERY SUN 6-7 PM, LULULEMON ATHLETICA KINGSWAY 800. All levels welcome, new styles each week, mats provided. Info: 780-471-1200 or [www.lululemon.com](http://www.lululemon.com).

**GENTLE YOGA RADHA YOGA 9:45-87 AVE.** Weekly classes in small group settings. Sunday Satay (by donation). Call for schedule and fees. Info: 780-432-3363 or [www.radhyoga.ca](http://www.radhyoga.ca).

**LIVING POSITIVE TUE 7-9 PM, 1041 37 AVE.** Info: 780-432-1057.

**CONFIDENTIAL space WHERE POC people can discuss and share common issues of concern.** A peer-driven AIDS service organization, providing direct support to people living with HIV in Alberta. Info: 780-488-5768 or [edmlivingpositive.ca](http://edmlivingpositive.ca).

**LOTUS SOUL GYM YOGA STUDIO 10518 82 AVE.** Multi-dimensional yoga studio offering drop-in and registered classes in hatha, vinyasa flow, Pilates, yoga for runners, pre-natal, post-natal, mommy & me, and partner workshops. All levels welcome. Info: [www.lotussoulgym.ca](http://www.lotussoulgym.ca).

**MADELEINE SANAM FOUNDATION 800 & 4TH SAT EVERY MONTH, 9 AM-5 PM, FACULTE ST-JEAN, 8406 91 ST, RM 3-18.** An organization for the emancipation and autonomy of African women, providing programs on economy, community health, training on HIV-AIDS prevention, treatment, and harm reduction. French, English and African languages. Admission free for members, membership \$10. Info: 780-490-7332.

**MEDITATION AND BUDDHIST TEACHINGS GADEN SAMTEN LIVING TIBETAN BUDDHIST MEDITATION SOCIETY, 10401 107 ST.** Meditation and Buddhist teachings for all. Info: 780-432-1057.

**PRIDE CENTRE 9540 111 AVE.** Monthly meetings for all community members, and police officers. Email questions or concerns to [epslgbt@ualberta.ca](mailto:epslgbt@ualberta.ca). All inquiries treated with confidentiality and respect. To report a hate or bias motivated crime, contact the EPS Hate & Bias Crime Unit. Info: 780-421-1799.

**OUTSIDE/INSIDE** 1ST & 3RD A Campus-based organization for LGBTQ faculty, graduate, academic & staff. Straight allies welcome. Monthly meetings. Info: [kwell@ualberta.ca](mailto:kwell@ualberta.ca) or [mrwongham@ualberta.ca](mailto:mrwongham@ualberta.ca).

**PRIDE CENTRE 9540 111 AVE.** Monthly meetings for all. Info: 780-421-3234. Hours: TUE-FRI 1-10 PM, SAT 12-6 PM. Drop-in library, and community internet service are available. Online newsletter Hours: TUE: 780-421-10 PM, SAT 12-6 PM. Info: 780-488-3234 or [www.pridecenteredmonton.org](http://www.pridecenteredmonton.org).

**TEAM DUNN** A volunteer operated, non-profit society for members and friends of the GLBT community, offering well organized and fun sporting events and other recreational activities within a positive social framework. Info: [www.teamdunnn.ca](http://www.teamdunnn.ca).

**WOMONSPACE** Non-profit lesbian organization for Edmonton and surrounding area. Organized monthly activities. Memberships available, including monthly newsletter. Confidentiality assured. Info: [www.gayanaada.com/womonspace](http://www.gayanaada.com/womonspace) or [womonspace@gmail.com](mailto:womonspace@gmail.com).

**YOUTH MEDITATION & BUDDHIST PRACTICE** WED, 7 PM, 10502 70 AVE. Tibetan Buddhist monk Kushok Lobzang Dhamchoe. Beginners Tue 7 pm. Intermediate Wed 7 pm. Advanced practices Sun 11 am. Info: 780-479-0014 or [www.gadensamtening.org](http://www.gadensamtening.org).

**MS ACTIVE NOW 150, 9405 91 ST.** Recreation and physical wellness. Info: 780-471-3034.

**RESTORATIVE YOGA MON-THU BY APPOINTMENT** 1035 105 ST. Learn restorative, vinyasa yoga, and pilates for individuals and small groups. Eight class card pass for \$64. Info: 780-478-3713.

**RIVER VALLEY RUNNERS TUE & THU, 5:15-6:45 PM,** RIVERDALE COMMUNITY HALL, 9231 100 AVE. Coached training for running on Edmonton's extensive river trails, includes warm up and cooldown. Info: [www.rivervalleyrunners.net](http://www.rivervalleyrunners.net) or 780-447-1939.

**TOPS: TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY** THU, 6:30-7:30 PM, PM, 11200 COMMUNITY LEAGUE, 6330 105A ST. Weight loss support and information. First meeting is free. Info: [TOPS4909@hotmail.com](http://TOPS4909@hotmail.com).

**TRIUMPH MEDITATION & BUDDHIST PRACTICE** WED, 7 PM, 10502 70 AVE. Tibetan Buddhist monk Kushok Lobzang Dhamchoe. Beginners Tue 7 pm. Intermediate Wed 7 pm. Advanced practices Sun 11 am. Info: 780-479-0014 or [www.gadensamtening.org](http://www.gadensamtening.org).

**YOUTH MEDITATION** 1ST & 3RD THU, 7 PM, 10401 105 ST. Info: 780-421-3234. Hours: TUE-FRI 1-10 PM, SAT 12-6 PM. Info: 780-488-3234 or [www.pridecenteredmonton.org](http://www.pridecenteredmonton.org).

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period, short business meeting, followed by guest speaker discussion panel, or potluck supper. Special interest groups meet for other activities throughout the month. EPT is affiliated with Prime Timers World Wide. Info: [edmontong@yahood.ca](mailto:edmontong@yahood.ca)

**MARSH HILL CENTRE** 88310 104 ST., 780-435-0202 Classes and workshops on the recovery process. Registration on a sliding scale, based on participant's income. Info: [www.marshhillcentre.com](http://www.marshhillcentre.com).

**MEDIA MAG WORKSHOPS EDMONTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**, #600, 9990 JASPER AVE. Several workshops in areas concerning media. Info: [www.mediamag.ca](http://www.mediamag.ca) or 780-695-5675.

**NORTHERN RIVER KARATE SCHOOL** TUE, THU & SAT, 10510 104 AVE. Classes for all ages. Info: [www.karate-school.com](http://www.karate-school.com).

**NOHA** 10510 104 AVE. Classes for all ages. Info: [www.noha.ca](http://www.noha.ca).

**NOHA YOGA** 2-3 PM, LION'S BREATH YOGA. Introductory level class. Free. No previous experience required. Bring mat or towel and water. Info: [yoga@teamdmonton.ca](mailto:yoga@teamdmonton.ca).

**LAMBDA CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY** 7 PM, GARNEAU UNITED CHURCH, 1148 84 AVE. Lambda provides a safe and healing space for Edmonton's gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and heterosexual Christians. All denominations and faiths welcome. Info: [780-867-8611](http://780-867-8611) or [lambda@lambda.ca](mailto:lambda@lambda.ca).

**MEN TALKING WITH PRIDE** 7 PM, PRIDE CENTRE 9540 111 AVE. Men's social and discussion group, facilitated by Rob Wells. Info: [robb.wells@robbwells.com](mailto:robb.wells@robbwells.com) or 780-488-3234.

**SOUL OUTING** 3RD SUN EVERY MONTH, 7 PM, ROBERTSON WEST UNITED CHURCH, 10209 123 ST. LGBT-focused alternative worship. Info: [780-482-1587](http://780-482-1587) or [robertson@rwuc.org](mailto:robertson@rwuc.org).

**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH** 10 AM, 11526 76 AVE. All orientations welcome for Sunday service. Info: [780-436-1955](http://780-436-1955) or [www.stpauls.ca](http://www.stpauls.ca).

**STANLEY STEINHORN-STERNSTEIN UNITED CHURCH** 10 AM, 10409 119 AVE. Welcomes all sexual orientations for a variety of activities. Info: 780-987-4974.

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intersections

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in p. 42

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## PROGRAM SCHEDULE

### AUGUST 2008

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
6AM BBC WORLD SERVICE BBC World Service updates weekdays at 8am, 9am, noon, and 7pm, on weekends at 2pm.					6AM BBC World Service New Show TBA	6AM GET YOUR JAMMIES ON Mark JM
7AM 22 AND 50 SONGS Melanie	7AM MAKIN' WHOOPEE Chad & Colin	8AM-9AM CLOCKWORK ORANGE JUICE Moose Brothers	7AM FULL ENGLISH BREAKFAST Peter Chapman	7AM SORDID PAST, SORDID PRESENT Misty & Kevin	7AM SENOR BLUES B Qassim	8AM TURKISH PROGRAM CL J
9AM BORSCHT FOR BREAKFAST Angie	9AM PUTER IN D FOR DANGLE June R	9AM PRAIRIE GAUCHO Idris R	9AM FAMOUS LAST WORDS Sarah and Tish R	9AM ACIMOWIN Phoenix R	9AM MUSICA NOVA Robin	9AM-10AM JAZZOLOGY Steve J
11AM THE CUTENESS QUOTIENT David	11AM GET SOME WEST Babe Lloyd L	11AM THE IPSO FACTORY Buster Friendly	11AM WORDS ON RADIO Literary Arts	11AM STUFF I FOUND UNDER THE COUCH Sam Power	11AM ALTERNATIVE RADIO Progressive Lectures	11AM RADIO KATHMANDU: A SUNDAY BRUNCH IN NEPAL NE
1PM THE RHYTHM METHOD Dwayne	1PM KILL EM' ALL Kathy	1PM THE BARCLAY HOUR Sheri Barclay	1PM TWO HOURS YOU'LL NEVER GET BACK James	1PM FAKE IT 'TILL YA MAKE IT Laura & Sarah	1PM 3 CORDS AND THE TRUTH P Erin	1PM RAGAS & RHYTHMS Imran and Janine
2PM RANSOM RADIO Craig D	2PM TELL IT LIKE IT ISN'T Field	2PM 20th CENTURY Miss Manered or Smilin Jay	2PM THE '68 COMEBACK SPECIAL Tom & Craig	2PM HIT AND RUN RADIO Jay & Olga	2PM 25 TO LIFE Andy & Aaron SZ	2PM BEFORE THE DELUGE Sandy & Richard R
3PM DEMOCRACY NOW! Alternative News	5PM TERRA INFORMA Local Environmental News	5PM ASTERISK Aaron and Sam	5PM YOUTH MENACE Youth Justice	5PM MOVING RADIO Film & Video	5PM CATCH THE BEAT Cam	5PM SIN FRONTERAS Sergio SP
530PM COUNTERSPIN Countering Media Spin	530PM RISE UP: RADIO FREE EDMONTON Alberta Politics			5PM ADAMANT EVE Feminist Radio		
6AM BORROWED TUNES Joel	6AM CATCH THE WAVE The Victoria Composite High School Kids	6AM THE TERRORDOME: The All-World Afrika News Service	6AM GAYWIRE Tam, Nancy & Ferdinand	6AM LIZA'S PILLS Heather ALTERNATING WEEKS Q TRANSMISSIONS paranormal phone in show with Heather and Sinclair	6AM BPM David Stone	6AM POLSKIE RADIO Bogdan
7AM ONE HOUR TO MADNESS & JOY Tony	7AM PRIGGNER Rad Priggner	7AM CALLING ALL BLUES Grant Stovel	7AM PRAIRIE PICKIN' Doug & Rob	7AM SOUNDS UKRAINIAN Lada	7AM ELEKTRIK SEX TELEFON Eddie Lunchpail	7AM ETHIOPIAN BISERAT PO
8PM BASS CULTURE Mick Sleeper RG	8PM PUNK AND METAL Emmett	8PM THE SOUNDS OF FOLKWAYS Aaron L & Farris	8PM ASIKO PHANTOM PYRAMID Minister Faust & Bongbiemi	8PM DEPROGRAM Norm	8PM FOURRE-TOUT FR	8PM HOUSE UNDERGROUND FM DJ Xu DB/EL
9PM FLYING SAUCER ROCK & ROLL Dan Electreau G	9PM NECROTECHS UNITE Shadow EI	9PM THE SHOE BOX Brian & Pete	9PM CARIBBEAN CONNEXION DJ Ice man with soca and more (RG)	9PM PULSE FM MC Deadly & Pale Force DB	9PM ARRAGTIDE BEESHA Jaamac S	
10PM BETWEEN YESTERDAY AND TOMORROW Alanna	10PM YOUR WEEKLY AA MEETING Adam & Aaron P	10PM THE EROTIC DANCER'S GUIDE TO FINE MUSIC Al Burant PR	10PM RADIATION RULING THE NATION Matt	10PM FRESH TRACKS Mother Peace HH	10PM DREAM MACHINE Daniel Buxton EI	
11PM OTHER PEOPLE'S MUSIC Al and Lawrence (EL)	12AM THE DARKNESS OF MY SOUL Raven and Eaper GO	12AM KAMIKAZE COMEDY Lars & Powerman C	12AM LIQUID CHATTER The Mikes & Sima PI	12AM ALTERED STATES The Professor & The Juggernaut EI	12AM URBAN HANG SUITE Arlo Maverick	12AM THE SOUND OF MY OWN VOICE D. Jeffery Buchanan
12AM	1AM JORDAN'S BAG OF TRICKS Jordan	1AM ELECTRORPLOLAPSE DJ Kuch	1AM NIGHTCRAWLER PRESENTS Dj Nightcrawler and guests	1AM MIND COMPRESSION Limey M	1AM	1AM MELANCHOLY CACOPHONY Keegan
1AM	3AM-4AM LUNCHTIME IN LUXEMBOURG Don and Heather	3AM BBC World Service New Show TBA	3AM BBC World Service New Show TBA	3AM MORE METAL AND OTHER ASSORTED LOUD MUSICS Jesse	3AM EVIL PETTING ZOO DXL & Thero HH	3AM BBC World Service New Show TBA
3AM-6AM BBC World Service New Show TBA	4AM BBC World Service New Show TBA	330AM BBC World Service New Show TBA				

#### LEGEND

All programs are Eclectic unless otherwise noted.

SE - News Programming  
D - Shared Show with alternating hosts  
C - Comedy  
CL - Classical  
CO - Country  
CH - Classical Rock (CJSR Style)  
EX - Experimental  
F - Folk  
G - Garage Rock  
H - Gothic  
I - Indie/Pakistani  
J - Jazz  
JM - Jam Bands  
L - Latin  
RG - Reggae  
S - Samba  
SP - Spanish Language  
SZ - Street  
T - Tigrinya Language  
U - Ukrainian  
WB - World Beat

African AM - Amharic Language  
B - Blues  
BG - Bluegrass  
DB - Drum & Bass  
EI - Electro-Industrial  
EL - Electronic  
H - Hip Hop/Urban  
IN - Indo/Pakistani  
Jazz - Jazz  
JM - Jam Bands  
NL - New Music  
P - Punk  
PI - Phone In  
PO - Polish Language  
PR - Prog Rock  
T - Tigrinya Language  
U - Ukrainian  
WB - World Beat



# The Unsung Voiceover Hero

**YOU MAY NOT KNOW DAN TYMINSKI'S FACE, BUT YOU'LL SURE AS HELL RECOGNIZE THAT WARM CROON FROM O BROTHER WHERE ART THOU?**

DAN TYMINSKI

Fri, Aug 8 (Stage 3): "A Few of My Favourite Strings" workshop, 6-7pm; mainstage, starting at 9pm.

Dan Tyminski is about as famous as a bluegrass musician can get these days. As lead guitarist and back-up vocalist in Alison Krauss & Union Station, he's won numerous Grammys, been featured in *Rolling Stone*, and performed on all the major late-night talk shows. But his true breakthrough came in 2000 when he provided George Clooney's singing voice in the Coen Brothers film *O Brother Where Art Thou?*, where his jubilant version of "Man of Constant Sorrow" suddenly made bluegrass relevant to a generation weaned on boy bands and morose "alternative" rock.

As Tyminski modestly puts it, it's "a pretty extensive résumé." But it wasn't until last year that he realized one of the all-time highlights of his already-illustrious career: a guest appearance on *Sesame Street*.

"That was the most fun I've probably had playing music," he said. "We got to do a segment with The Count, and it's still the same puppeteer running the puppet. He's the man who taught me to count when I was a kid. Even while they're standing there with a puppet on their arm, you find yourself looking into the eyes of the puppet and really engaging with this

piece of cloth."

These days Tyminski is on the road with his new band (named, aptly enough, the Dan Tyminski Band) and promoting his second solo record, *Wheels*, while Union Station remains on official hiatus. It's an album full of bluegrass staples: farmers, road trips, and spurned lovers dominate the lyrics, complemented throughout by Tyminski's crisp, warm vocals.

The album feels so much like a traditional bluegrass record that it's hard to believe most of these songs are originals, written for Tyminski by various friends and fellow musicians. With such an imposing tradition of what a bluegrass song *should* sound like, and with many of the classics still in active rotation amongst contemporary artists, Tyminski is happy to let others worry about writing new material.

"If I find myself in the moment," he says, "I'll sit down and try to bring the song to a piece of paper. But generally if that doesn't happen, I write a lot of half-songs and then let them slip away, it seems. In fact, the song that I wrote on this record is called 'How Many Times,' and that song is really about songwriting. The start of it says, 'How many times have I started down this road that I'm still on? I think that it's all going fine, and then I find it's gone.' I was speaking of a song: how many times have I sat here with a guitar and started a song, and then it slipped away?"

No matter the success of *Wheels*, though, it's unlikely that Tym-



**A Man Of Not So Constant Sorrow** | Tyminski's voice introduced the young Hollywood generation to new musical territory. PHOTO WWW.JIMMYABECK.COM

ski will have a bigger impact on the mainstream than he did as the voice of the Soggy Bottom Boys in the Coens' film. Even now, it's hard to overstate how remarkable this soundtrack is: producer T-Bone Burnett created an eerily beautiful portrait of the Depression by combining scratchy original recordings—like the stunning 1955 recording of a chain gang singing "Po' Lazarus"—with period pieces re-recorded by modern artists without resorting to using modern studio gadgetry.

Yet "Man of Constant Sorrow" is undoubtedly the centrepiece of both the soundtrack and the film. Even though you never see his face on

screen—as a result, many fans of the film still think that Clooney himself is the vocal powerhouse—Tyminski says there were benefits to being the invisible voice behind one of Hollywood's most eligible bachelors. "When I called my wife to tell her that I had the chance to do this voiceover," he says, "the first words out of her mouth were 'Oh, a voiceover! That's great! What is a voiceover?' And I explained that you'd be looking at George Clooney on the big screen but hearing my voice coming out. Without hesitation, she said, 'Damn, that's my fantasy!'"

While the Coens, Burnett, and Clooney have all seen their stars rise

after *O Brother Where Art Thou?*, Tyminski remains the unsung hero (so to speak) of the project. He maintains he feels no animosity ("a little more fascination than frustration"), and he's happy to promote *Wheels* the old-fashioned way: playing live shows and watching his audience and reputation expand, however slowly through word of mouth rather than celebrity cache.

And he's not shy about playing "Man of Constant Sorrow" live either—so look for hundreds of ears to suddenly perk up at the Folk Fest this weekend, as they finally connect that familiar voice with its rightful owner.

FOLK FEST · PSYCHO-COUNTRY · BY EAMON MCGRATH | 470 words

# The Good Travellers



**Did You Know?** | The Good Brothers is actually the name of Dallas' and Travis' father's band. PHOTO BY BETH HAMMILL

**THE SADIES HAVE SPENT 10 YEARS PLAYING KICKASS LIVE SHOWS, SO THEIR SET IS SURE TO BE THE MOST ROLLICKING AFTERNOON ON THE HILL**

THE SADIES

Sat, Aug 9 (1pm): Stage 1.

"I suppose some people don't travel well," remarks Dallas Good, who provides The Sadies with half of the psychedelic, lush guitar sounds that have become their trademark. "In the case of The Sadies, we do travel well, and we travel often."

The past 10 years have seen the Toronto band undergoing countless coast-to-coast tours, not to mention frequent visits to Europe and the U.S. That rigorous road schedule has paid off, cementing The Sadies' reputation as one of the most exciting live bands in Canada... and giving the band plenty of opportunities

**SADIES cont'd pg. 21**

# The (No Longer) Suicidal Cabdriver



White Noise | Jim White's songwriting techniques sound something like the script for a Stan Brakhage film. PHOTO BY ROBIN BROWARD

## JIM WHITE EXPLAINS HOW HE WAS AT THE END OF HIS ROPE WHEN HE BECAME ONE OF DAVID BYRNE'S FAVOURITE SONGWRITERS

### WHITE

Edmonton Folk Festival, Sat, Aug 9 (5pm); Stage 6 ("Time of My Life" workshop w/ Hawksley Workman, Romi Mayes, Martha Wainwright), Sun, Aug 10 (12 noon); Stage 2, Sun, Aug 11 (4pm); Stage 5 ("Issues" workshop w/ John Wont Nenham, Eliza Gilkyson).

"I've spent my whole life driving places," says singer/songwriter Jim White. "I was conceived on a cross-country trip." He spent most of his time between the ages of 16 and 25 knocking around the back roads of the American South, a period of his life that he revisited in the 2004 documentary *Searching for the Wrong-Eyed Jesus*. He's put in stints as a surfer and a standup comic. He went to film school at NYU and worked for a while as a New York cab driver.

It would be easy to romanticize these experiences, but you'd have to be someone other than Jim White to do so.

### SADIES (cont'd from pg. 20)

to live up to it.

Good modestly says their sound doesn't "reinvent the wheel," but it sure does stir up lots of interesting bits and pieces of country, psychedelia, surf, punk rock, and rock 'n' roll. Their stylistic flexibility allows them to play huge folk festivals to small clubs, or tour as a backing band and collaborate with the likes of Neko Case, John Langford, Blue Rodeo,

"At the time I signed with Luaka Bop [the record label founded by David Byrne, which has released all five of White's albums], I was a cabbie and had gone through five years of intense psychological distress," he says. "I was suicidal. I literally thought dozens of times a day that I was going to kill myself. And then this call came from David Byrne's record label saying they'd heard a weird homemade tape I'd made and they wanted to give me a record deal. I thought it was a practical joke! I thought one of my friends was messing with me."

and when I went back to America, I thought what a shame it was that no one in America will ever hear this band. So I walked into Luaka Bop, and there they were—there was a giant poster of them, Zap Mama, hanging there. When the secretary told me that they were on this label, I thought, 'Okay I've found a good place.'

"And then a moment later, David Byrne comes rushing out and shakes my hand like some stalker fan and goes, 'Oh wow! It's really nice to meet you! Wow! You're such a great songwriter! Wow!!!' I thought, 'Man,

ing on pots and pans in his kitchen—that improbably attracted Byrne's attention. On albums like *No Such Place, Drill a Hole in That Substrate and Tell Me What You See*, and his latest, 2007's *Transnormal Skipperoo*, the 50-year-old White shows a willingness to experiment in the studio that you don't normally associate with alt-country artists from his generation. His songs are vividly etched character studies, but with their layered electronic soundscapes, they're like a Flannery O'Connor story crossed with Wilco's *A Ghost Is Born*. (Paradoxically, though, White

me. Because, she said, 'You're not supposed to do it that way.' I came up with this analogy years and years ago: if you were given the assignment of building a tree, most people would start with the roots, then build the trunk then add the limbs and the twigs, then put on the leaves. I seem to be more comfortable with doing the leaves first and throwing them in the air, then figuring out some way to attach the twigs to the moving leaves and limbs to the moving twigs. Most of the trees I made when I was starting out fell apart because they had no structural integrity. But after 30 years of building them that way, I think I found a way to make them work.

"I have minimal skills lyrically," he continues. "You ever listen to Joe Purine? In a three-minute song, he can just tear an idea apart. But it takes me forever to get to my point—I wish I could be more succinct. I always take more of an Islamic approach to things—I have to get to Mecca and then circle the city seven times. But in circling the city seven times, I learn things along the way that people who go straight in don't."

### I LITERALLY THOUGHT DOZENS OF TIMES A DAY THAT I WAS GOING TO KILL MYSELF. AND THEN THIS CALL CAME FROM DAVID BYRNE'S RECORD LABEL SAYING THEY'D HEARD A WEIRD HOMEMADE TAPE I'D MADE AND THEY WANTED TO GIVE ME A RECORD DEAL. I THOUGHT IT WAS A PRACTICAL JOKE! I THOUGHT ONE OF MY FRIENDS WAS MESSING WITH ME.

"But I walked into their office," he continues. "Now, during one of my big psychological crises, I'd ended up in Belgium. And one of my friends who was worried about me said, 'Don't stay in the house tonight—let's go out and hear some new music.' We heard this incredible band play,

this is one of the greatest inversions in the history of human physics. I'm a suicidal cabdriver and that's David Byrne, and he's doing to me what I should do to him."

White has come a long way since that crude cassette—literally, White says, a tape of him singing and bang-

says that his music didn't go over too well when he actually opened for Wilco. He did better when he toured with Lucinda Williams—her fans get him.)

"When I told the mother of my first child how I write songs, she struck me," he says. "She literally struck

and The Tragically Hip. In store for this year is a project with John Doe of L.A. punk legends X, and a busy summer hitting the Canadian festival circuit. The Sadies now play to thousands of people on almost every date.

"The last 10 years have shaped our career," Good says. "We've just pushed on and worked hard and we've done everything to the best of our ability. The majority of my occu-

pation has been in this great country of ours, and in so doing, we've been able to develop an audience, and we're happy on this playing field. Things aren't getting any worse. And that's important... We suffer from no visions of grandeur, and we're not out there thinking that it's all the luckiest thing that's happened. We don't look at it as something that we deserve or that we're born into. It's merely 'we do what we do,' and we

have struggled in small clubs with very few people, and personally I don't see any leaps and bounds in our career."

Talking to Dallas Good, I get the impression that their growing popularity, reputation, and audience size hasn't affected the reasons why The Sadies still step out onto a stage every night—and they still throw themselves into their instruments at every single performance. "There are a

lot of factors that make up dedicating your life to music," Good says. "You basically have to change your lifestyle and accept that it'll be different for the rest of your life. People work jobs for 15 years that they don't really like doing, and other people do jobs that they love doing for 15 years and they don't make a fucking cent. That's why I say, 'Things aren't getting any worse.' We're just happy to have a fanbase that gets it."

# The Ever-Changing Supergroup

**BROKEN SOCIAL SCENE'S LINEUP HAS UNDERGONE SO MANY CHANGES THAT THEIR NAME IS MORE ACCURATE THAN EVER**

**BROKEN SOCIAL SCENE**  
Sun, Aug 10: mainstage

Picking up a new girl in every town you play is a rockstar cliché. Picking up a new girl in every town you play and asking them to sing onstage with you—well, that's Broken Social Scene.

"We've been doing a lot of finding different vocalists in each city that we've been in lately—we're playing *Broken Social Scene Idol*," says Brendan Canning with just a hint of a chuckle. "Different vocalists in Singapore and Taipei, Mexico... It keeps us on our toes. You don't know what you're in for until the first notes are sung and either it's going to be 'Hey, this sounds great' or 'Oh, we made a mistake.'"

A founding member of Canada's indie-rock standard-bearers, Canning can rattle off the many mutations of Broken Social Scene like an indie-cyclopedia. Besides the nightly lineup additions and subsequent subtractions, the most recent incarnation

of the Scene consists of the crew that contributed to Canning's pseudo-solo effort *Something for All of Us...* It's the second in the "Broken Social Scene Presents" series of discs, following Kevin Drew's *Spirit If...* and the branding of the series is far from an advertising ploy. Members of the band (including Kevin Drew, Justin Peroff, Andrew Whiteman, Evan Cranley, and Lisa Lobsinger) may lend their skills to the album, but it's still Canning's record.

"The fact that I'm not having to check with anyone to see whether they like these songs or not," Canning says, "makes it sort of me stepping out a little bit."

Canning assembled the musical collages on *Something* with all the effort and care that goes into building a house of cards, and the results are just as gloriously unstable. Still, the strong resemblance to Broken Social Scene's trademark sound has caused some critics to wonder if the band does, in fact, have a centre.

Pondering that question may be pointless, considering the whirligig of artists constantly blowing in and out of the group. When members like Metric's Emily Haines and Leslie Feist, for instance, hopped off



*It Could Happen To You* | Brendan Canning doesn't know if they'll find a singer in Edmonton, so practice up and maybe you'll get to swing with him and Kevin Drew. PHOTO BY NORMAN WONG

the bandwagon to pursue their own wildly successful projects, Lobsinger hopped on as the band's default female presence. Now, with the release of Canning's own album, Lobsinger finally gets a song of her own to show off her own voice.

"She spent a long time singing other people's songs when she was on tour with Broken Social Scene," Canning explains, "so I really wanted

to showcase her on one song where she didn't have to try and get into the character of, whether it's Emily Haines or Leslie Feist, like 'Anthems' or '7/4 Shoreline.' I thought it was really important for [Lobsinger] to have her own thing, her own song. You know, at least one."

"What is the essence of Broken Social Scene?" he continues. "I don't know. We're a travelling cir-

cus. Coming to the Folk Fest we got a good cast of characters playing and maybe we'll even find a vocalist in Edmonton. I haven't totally confirmed what our lineup is going to be there yet and I don't know—who else is playing the Edmonton Folk Fest? That would be a good question. You never know whom we might be able to steal... I mean, that's what we try to do everywhere."

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St. Thomas More College gives students an opportunity to put their faith into action through community service-learning. Our campus ministry team is an essential part of our unique Catholic identity that provides our students with opportunities to explore their faith and to grow as whole persons. STM also has a Career and Vocation Centre to help students discern their vocation and how a future career may fit into that plan.

## Liberal Arts.

Our teaching focus is the Liberal Arts. We offer classes in the humanities (i.e. religious studies, history, philosophy) and social sciences (i.e. archaeology, political studies, sociology). Liberal Arts education teaches you how to think rather than what to think. By gaining critical thinking, communication, and problem solving skills, and by learning to be open minded, you will be able to succeed professionally.

## Federated.

St. Thomas More College is federated with the University of Saskatchewan which means that our students get the personal service and attention offered by a smaller college while attaining an internationally recognized U of S degree. All STM students are University of Saskatchewan students at the same time.

**Discover MORE**



ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGE  
UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

[www.stmcollege.ca](http://www.stmcollege.ca)

Toll Free 1 800 667 2019

# Imagine your future . . . at Bow Valley College

*Diplomas available in business, health care and human services*

If you are looking for change in your career or life, Bow Valley College can help. We provide practical programs that prepare you for a new, exciting career. Bow Valley College staff and instructors provide services and supports you need to succeed.

Bow Valley College President & CEO Sharon Carry says, "Each year, [Bow Valley College] helps more than 11,000 learners reach their goals at our downtown Calgary campus and at more than 20 locations throughout southern Alberta. Bow Valley College learners come from all over the world. BVC is a truly international and diverse campus."

With year-round entry, Bow Valley College programs include one-year career certificates and two-year diplomas in business, administration, health care and human services. English as a Second Language, high school upgrading and a variety of continuing education options are also available.

Thousands of learners receive some funding to further their education. The college offers awards and financial aid programs. Entrance scholarships, scholarships and bursaries may be available. College advisors can assist you with the information required. To get the new Bow Valley College "Funding your Future—Financial Aid Options" workbook, simply visit [bowvalleycollege.ca/financial](http://bowvalleycollege.ca/financial) or call 403-410-1691 (1-866-428-2669).

As our city grows, so does Bow Valley College's Calgary campus. When the multi-million dollar redevelopment is complete, there will be one campus with two state-of-the-art buildings.

*Continued on page 4*



**HELPING HANDS** — Bow Valley College offers different certificates and diplomas for students interested in pursuing a career in the health care field. The school has a downtown campus in Calgary and 20 other locations.

Great location Great resource

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Keyano College

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Keyano College

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Boost your marketability in the workplace with a realistic solution. Moving forward may only be a course or two away, and you can get started this fall.

Check out our calendar, available at Safeway, Sobeys, and financial institutions, call 780.471.6248 for a printed copy or visit [www.nait.ca/ContinuingEducation](http://www.nait.ca/ContinuingEducation)



AN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY COMMITTED TO STUDENT SUCCESS



**YEAR-ROUND ENROLMENT** – Whether you're looking for a leg up in the field of business or as an administrator, Bow Valley College can help further your career with year-round enrollment. Bow Valley is also building a new campus that will offer innovative support services and programs for rural areas and offer increased access to post-secondary education.

## New campus *Continued from page 3*

"The new campus will boast a modern, welcoming learning environment as well as a rejuvenative base upon which to develop innovative programs and support services for rural areas, offering generations of learners increased access to post-secondary education and brighter futures," says Sharon Carr.

The Bow Valley College Course Guide outlines courses and programs. Visit [bowvalleycollege.ca](http://bowvalleycollege.ca), or call 403-410-1400, (1-866-428-2669) or visit the college and take in an info session.

This is your opportunity to imagine your future and make the most of your career. Make it happen... with Bow Valley College.

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[mact.ca](http://mact.ca)

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**DIVERSE STUDIES** – Red Deer College offers a diverse curriculum for students with all kinds of different interests, as well as an inclusive campus atmosphere.

## Red Deer College can answer your questions

Questions. We all ask them. Can I really do it? Is it too late? Will I make friends? Can I support my family with this career?

As a child, you laid awake at night dreaming about what you would be when you grew up. Or you may have drawn your future occupation in Grade 2 art class and brought it home for Mom to post on the refrigerator.

What will you do? You're inundated with this question upon graduation. Here at Red Deer College (RDC), we help answer those

questions. We help make that childhood dream come true.

When you look at our students, you'll see how diverse we are at RDC. Film directors. Asian ESL students. Honour roll business graduates. Opera singers. Rural teenagers leaving home for the first time. A father seeking a better life for his family by getting that trade or degree. You'll see how, for years now, we've been answering questions and helping make dreams come true.

*Continued on page 6*

[WWW.STMU.AB.CA](http://WWW.STMU.AB.CA)



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- English (3 yr.)
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Encourage learning and spark imaginations as an elementary school teacher with this unique two-year program. A combination of classroom-based study and hands-on learning will prepare you to inspire students from Kindergarten to Grade 6.

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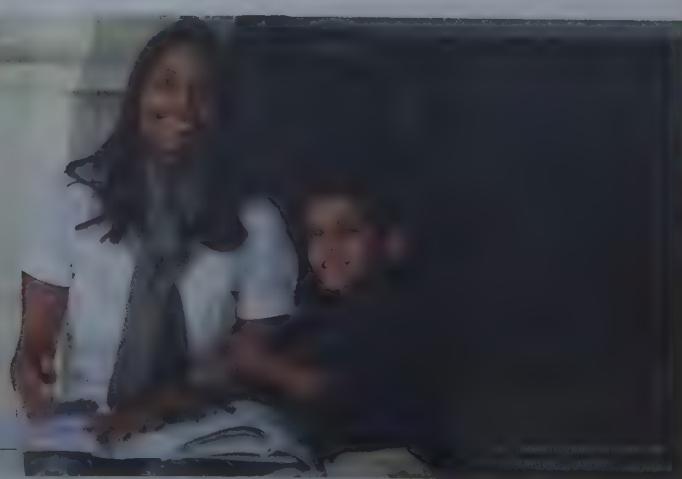
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**AU ADVANTAGE** **FLEXIBILITY**

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For AU student Freida, home is where the heart is. And it's also where the studying for her Master of Arts in Integrated Studies takes place as well.

Thanks to AU, Freida is able to balance family life with her full-time career as a strategic policy manager, and still pursue her master's degree at the

same time. She's worked out an academic timetable that's a perfect fit for her schedule, not ours.

Flexibility. Another reason why AU stands out as a global leader in distance learning excellence.

**standout**  
[www.athabasca.ca/standout](http://www.athabasca.ca/standout)

Athabasca University

# Certificate to degree programs

*Continued from page 6*

We understand that every generation offers something different to society and learns in a different way. You may be a Baby Boomer looking for more security, but afraid to think that continuing education night course that will get you that one step ahead. We can help. We can answer that question.

You could be a Generation Xer who grew up among the debt of the 1980s and are still forcefully rejecting any identity but the one you place on your own life. You need a new challenge, but something genuine and authentic. You want growth and opportunity. RDC can answer that.

Or you could be a Gen Yer seeing the last 75 years of debt and strife of the

There will never be a lack of opportunities for you to grow and make a difference. We can answer that.

world and wanting to make a difference, get connected with your world and want it all to happen now! Your education at RDC will help fulfil that dream.

Whatever the label "they" have placed, whatever the dream, we at RDC can get

you there.

With opportunities ranging from certificate to degree programs, performing arts to sciences to trades, RDC offers more array than many in central Alberta would expect because we understand. We're from central Alberta too.

RDC offers a sense of community that often gets missed in bigger city centres. You can actually get to know your instructors and have a social life with your new classmates.

Are you looking for a way to give back to the campus or community while studying? Why not take a study tour and learn a new culture, sign up with a campus club or committee and let your voice be heard, keep the Earth clean with our

Green Campus initiative, volunteer with the Students' Association Food Bank Drive at Christmas or share your brilliance as a student tutor. There will never be a lack of opportunities for you to grow and make a difference. We can answer that.

With a growing campus, and a new extension being opened in September 2008, we are here to accommodate the generations and every need that goes with it. Today's the day to make that childhood dream come true. Get your questions answered. You can change your life in as little as eight weeks or two years, a night course or a four-year collaborative degree.

RDC. In the heart of central Alberta. You can change your world, while still living in it. Visit [www.rdc.ab.ca](http://www.rdc.ab.ca)

## MASSAGE

Alberta Massage Training provides programs in massage throughout Alberta. These programs are offered at the following locations:

- Northern Lakes College, Grande Prairie, Alberta
- Norquest College, Downtown Edmonton, Alberta
- Keyano College, Fort MacMurray, Alberta
- S.A.I.T., Calgary, Alberta
- Commonwealth Centre, Lloydminster, Alberta

Classes Start In September

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[www.albertamassagetraining.com](http://www.albertamassagetraining.com)

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Two-year diploma  
available

## Pharmacy program accredited nationally

The Canadian Council for Accreditation of Pharmacy Programs has granted provisional accreditation — the highest accreditation available — to NorQuest College's two-year Pharmacy Technician Diploma program. This is the only pharmacy technician program in Alberta with national accreditation.

"The accreditation is a very positive development for future graduates of this program," says Ruth Hunter-Moffatt, Dean, Health and Human Service Careers at NorQuest College. "It means our students will be recognized as having graduated from an accredited program, possessing the skills necessary to meet national standards."

### High demand

The NorQuest College Pharmacy Technician Diploma program prepares students to work in hospitals, retail pharmacies, insurance agencies and for pharmaceutical companies.

*Continued on page 8*



**LINE UP NOW** — Norquest College's two-year Pharmacy Technician Diploma has been granted provisional accreditation, the highest available. It is the only such program in Alberta with national accreditation.



# work | life

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#### BENEFITS: WORK

\$50,000+ salary from day one of training  
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403.410.1400

[www.bowvalleycollege.ca](http://www.bowvalleycollege.ca)

1.866.428.2669

NorQuest graduates, under the supervision of a pharmacist, help to fill prescriptions, prepare compounded medications, prepare sterile products, repackage pharmaceuticals and provide customer care.

"We're extremely proud of our Pharmacy Technician Diploma program," says Hunter-Moffatt. "Through modifications to NorQuest curriculum, student assessments and teaching practices, this accreditation validates how our program is responding to the ever-changing role of pharmacy technicians."

## Health care education

For more than 43 years, NorQuest College has provided high-calibre health care programs that prepare students for employment in a diverse range of health care facilities and organizations. Other allied health certificate and diploma programs at NorQuest include Physical Therapy Assistant, Mental Health Rehabilitation and Therapeutic

Recreation.

"As Alberta's population grows and ages, health care providers in Alberta must continually adapt and respond to new pressures on the industry," says Hunter-Moffatt. "As a national leader in health care education, NorQuest College is a solution to these unique industry challenges by ensuring the workforce of tomorrow has the necessary skills."

NorQuest College serves around 10,000 students each year through full-time, part-time and regional programs in communities across Alberta. In addition to health care, allied health, human services, business and industry career programs, NorQuest offers expertise in adult literacy, English as a Second Language (ESL), intercultural education, aboriginal education, academic upgrading and learner supports for students with disabilities. For more information on NorQuest College programs and services, phone 780-644-6000 or visit [www.norquest.ca](http://www.norquest.ca).



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In-store only. No rainchecks. One trade-in per person. Minimum \$10 purchase.



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Film Arts



Langara College



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# Imagine a master's degree around your schedule

Two new graduate programs available

People often desire the gift of time. Schedules fill up quickly with work, family and extracurricular activities and in spite of this, there is usually the desire for growth and enrichment. But the thought of adding school to that list of priorities seems impossible.

Enter the University of Alberta.

The U of A offers two unique master's degrees on a part-time and online basis. The master of arts in Communications and Technology (MACT) is a graduate program that is offered almost entirely online. Students from all over the world are enrolled in this program and truly benefit from the convenience and flexibility it offers.

For the more science-minded, the U of A offers a master of science in Internetworking (MINT), where classes are held every second weekend, giving people the opportunity to work full time, spend time with their families and allow for flexible travel time for those who are not residents of Edmonton.

The multidisciplinary MACT program offers a variety of outlooks on communications revolving around technologies. The degree is designed for individuals who seek to gain the skills necessary to lead and manage others with the use of information and communications technologies. MACT graduates are involved in education and training, information technology, international and intercultural relations, management, marketing, mass media, new

## Promises of a graduate degree paid for as a hiring bonus is an attractive incentive.

media production, program design and development, public affairs, and writing and publishing.

The MINT graduate degree program has a goal to educate students on current Internetworking fundamentals and provide them the management and analytical skills required to develop evolving Internetworking infrastructures and lead project teams. MINT provides a broad understanding of Internetworking principles; familiarity with the organization and structure of the Internet; and an appreciation of its technical, business, and societal implications.

MACT and MINT also offer opportunities for employers who are seeking a solution to their worker shortage. In a highly competitive job market where employee shortages are a major problem for most companies, promises of a graduate degree paid for as a hiring bonus is an attractive incentive for prospective employees.

Application deadline for MINT is May 1, 2009.

Application deadline for MACT is December 15, 2008.



[www.mcbridecareergroup.com](http://www.mcbridecareergroup.com)  
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### Skills for people-people for jobs

MCG has 19 years history with training and matching people for new or different work, assisting employers in finding & retaining employees, plus career consulting and professional development. Services of interest:

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- **Occupation Skills Training** (3 programs in partnerships with NAIT): General Industrial Pre-trades, Warehouse and Product Support & Introduction to Basic Machining. All of these programs assist unemployed or underemployed Albertans to gain skills and knowledge to access employment in Industrial Trades, Warehouse and Product Support or CNC/Manual Machining.
- **Professional Insurance Broker Customer Service Representative Program** - skills training, professional development, and Level 1 Certification for insurance work including house, auto, fire and liability insurance
- **Workplace Training** – "Training on the Job" for career changers; also offering a training allowance to employers providing the training to new employees
- **Youth Skills Link** – for youth between the ages of 15-30 who are not employed and having difficulties entering/staying in the workforce

Note: Many of the above services are free! (Government sponsored)

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**HOME CLASSROOM** – Hundreds of adult learners receive certificates every year from University of Calgary Continuing Education for completing courses online. Students can also earn some certificates completely online.

# Online success at University of Calgary

Would you like to earn a certificate partially or completely online?

Every year, University of Calgary Continuing Education awards certificates to several hundred adult learners. For many of these graduates, taking courses online has contributed significantly to their success.

"Time is a huge challenge for most adult students, as they are often juggling their

education with family, career and community responsibilities, so they truly appreciate the flexibility and convenience of online learning," says Judith Russell, registrar for U of C Continuing Education. "In several of our programs, it is possible to earn a certificate completely online, and in others, students can take some courses online."

*Continued on page 11*



## Learn from anywhere!

Go online

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LEARN FROM EXPERIENCE...

conted

**UofC • THIS IS NOW**

# Choose when you work *Continued from page 10*

Online learning takes the learning experience out of the traditional classroom and provides access to courses from any location with an Internet connection. It is learning that relies on the Internet for interaction with instructors and fellow learners, and access to course materials. Typically, students work within scheduled start and end dates and assignment timelines. In some courses, students choose when they will work. In others, students meet their class online at a specific time.

Students are often tentative before taking their first online course. To ensure students get the most out of the online experience, Continuing Education requires they take a short course that will help them develop



strong e-learning skills.

Certificates that can be earned completely online include: Adult Learning; Professional Management; Professional Management—P.E.G.G. (for members of

A.P.E.G.G.A); Human Resource Management; Security Management; Teacher Assistant; Teaching Second Languages or Teaching Second Languages Professional Development, both with spe-

cializations in English as a Second or Foreign Language, or French as a Second Language.

For most students, a Continuing Education certificate builds on past education and work experience. Many students already have diplomas, undergrad or post-graduate degrees from U of C or other institutions. What they seek from Continuing Education is career-specific learning that can boost their career or help them transition to a new field.

University of Calgary Continuing Education serves 38,000 learners annually. Students are taught by 1,000 expert instructors who deliver 1,900 degree and non-degree credit courses.

## ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

We strive to develop an appropriate educational program for each student. The Outreach School Centre has been connecting students with their own learning style for 12 years. We are a school focused on outreach and home education for students aged 6 to adult.

If you are looking for an alternative learning environment, we are here with experienced teachers and flexible programs to help you complete your education.

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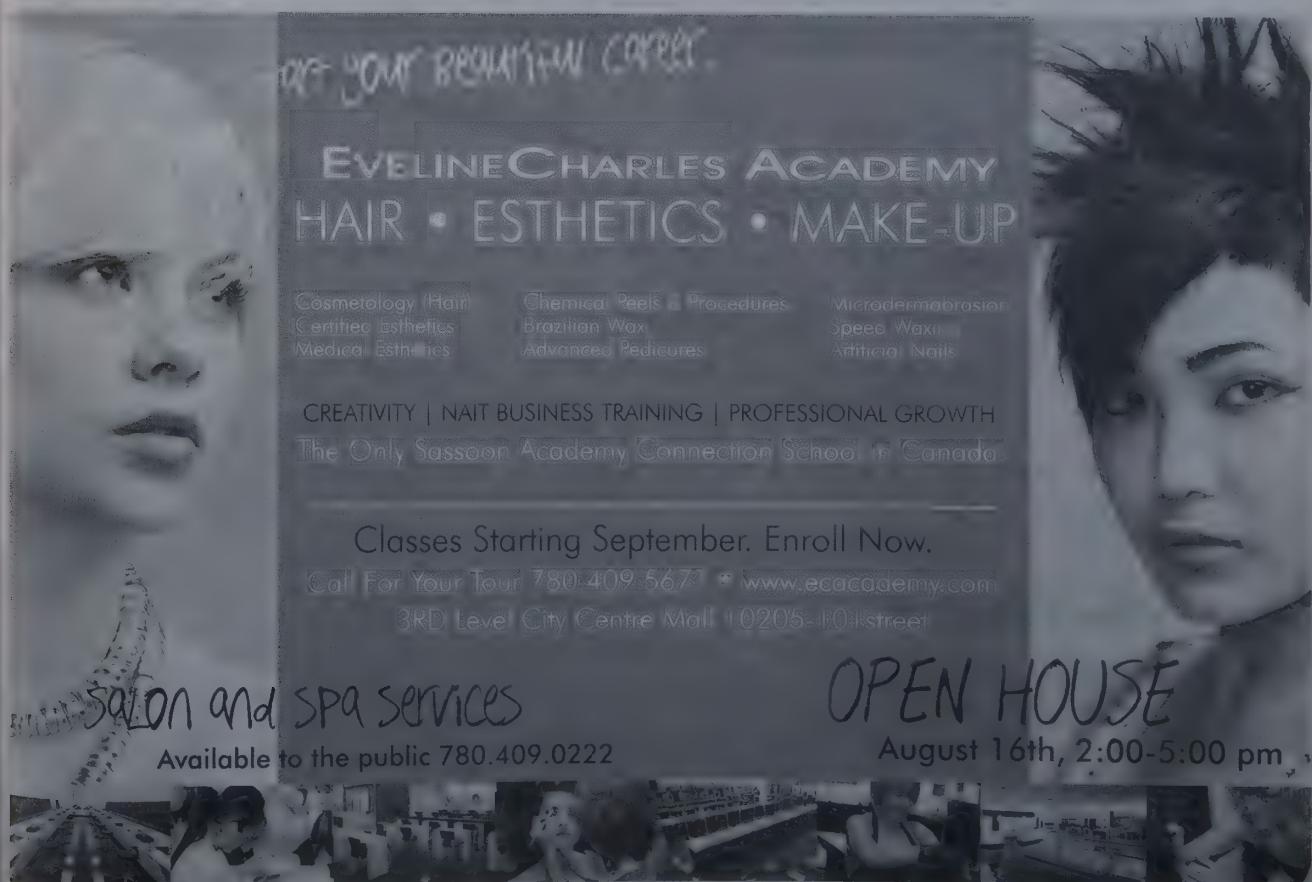
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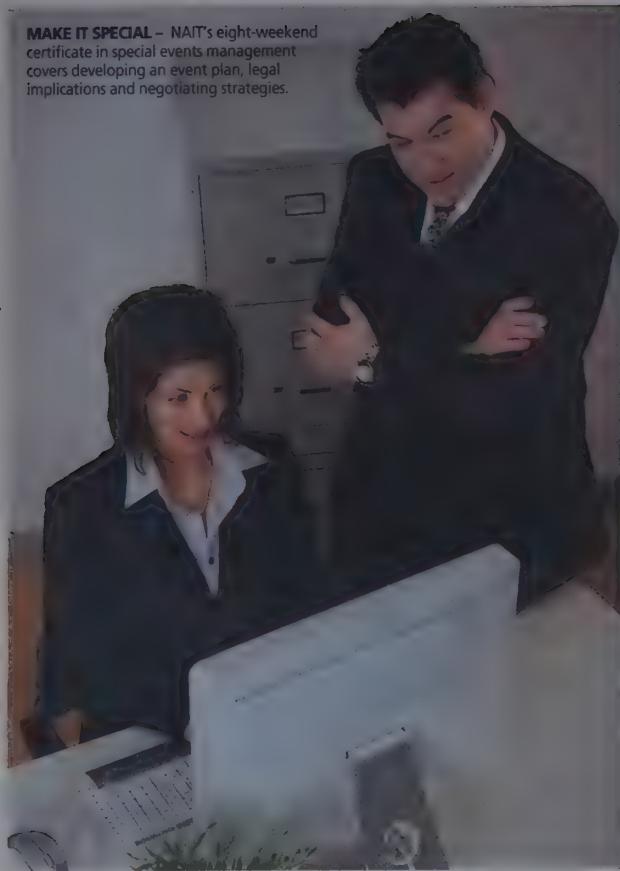
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**MAKE IT SPECIAL** – NAIT's eight-weekend certificate in special events management covers developing an event plan, legal implications and negotiating strategies.



*Special events management evolves into a specialized profession*

## Plan on a future in event planning

At an estimated spending of over \$500 billion for special events worldwide, event planners are in high demand. Both the public and private sectors are hiring professionals to produce events that range from celebrating life's most important milestones and achievements to providing quality face-to-face communications at conferences and tradeshows.

Diana Graling, PCL's communications specialist who is responsible for all of their large corporate events planning and is also one of the instructors of the NAIT Special Events Management Program, notes, "Alberta's current economic boom has resulted in increased local opportunities for special event management professionals. However, client expectations are also growing, and today's successful special event managers need to be excellent project managers, financial planners, human resources managers, and calculated risk takers ... as well as creative trendsetters. This is an exciting time in the special event industry, with opportunities to work from Edmonton on events in locations as far away as China and Japan."

Northlands has sent six employees to the program to pick up new skills. Elizabeth Bolivar says, "We host an incredible variety of events, from city-wide festivals, to world class sporting events, and also large scale agricultural events and competitions. During my time here, I have worked on many of

"I am a show manager and I'm now better able to conceptualize and plan an event, manage relationships, contracts ... and finances."

the different types of events, so having a good range of skills is necessary to succeed in this industry. I am a show manager, and I'm now better able to conceptualize and plan an event, manage relationships, contracts, risk management and finances. This program has been touching on all the key areas that people new to the industry might overlook."

The certificate program is comprised of a series of eight weekend courses and provides a solid understanding of event management. Training is aimed at both those already responsible for event planning in the corporate or non-profit sector and those hoping to become involved in the field. Topics covered include developing an event plan, legal implications and negotiating strategies.

Find out more. Contact Laurie Halldorson at 780-378-5044 or visit [www.nait.ca/ContinuingEducation](http://www.nait.ca/ContinuingEducation)

**St. Gabriel**  
cyber school



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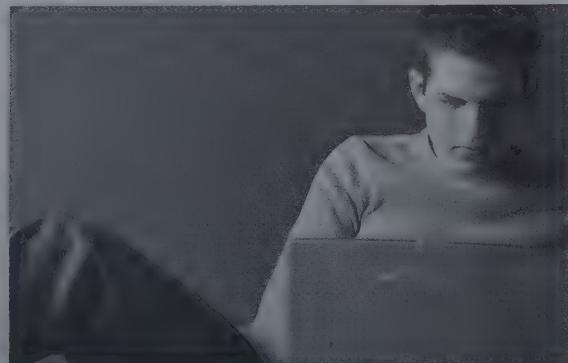
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# Get hands-on at Keyano College

Located in the heart of Fort McMurray, Keyano College is at the centre of the dynamic oilsands city. The college also serves Wood Buffalo communities such as Conklin, Janvier, Fort McKay and Gregoire Lake through learning centres, with additional campuses in Fort Chipewyan and Edmonton.

Keyano College serves over 3,000 students a year, and from academics to athletics has something for everyone. Located next to the largest oil reserve in the world, Keyano has long established linkages with many of the oilsands developers and contractors. These relationships ensure that students get training that is most relevant to industry.

The college launched a bachelor of education degree in collaboration with the University of Alberta last year, and a social work degree in association with the University of Calgary is coming this fall.

Additionally it offers a breadth of programming from courses in trades and heavy industry, nursing, and visual and performing arts. Keyano also provides numerous

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## Online education offers students freedom, flexibility

Working full-time, raising a family and running a farm made post-secondary education seem almost impossible for Kim Dimmock until she learned about the online education opportunities offered through eCampusAlberta.

"If it were not for eCampusAlberta and the online courses offered through Olds College, I would not be able to educate myself and earn my diploma, which has not only helped me with my farm business but has also opened up a whole new area of employment possibilities," says Dimmock, an Agricultural Finance student who works on her courses entirely online.

Dimmock, who has two children ages eight and four and works with her husband on their farm near Edmonton, in addition to her full-time job, says a traditional, classroom-based program would not have worked for her. But online studies offer students like her the flexibility to learn and work on their assignments at times that are convenient for them.

eCampusAlberta is a consortium of 15 Alberta colleges and technical institutes that

facilitate access to high quality online learning opportunities. The partnership enables students to enrol in more than 30 provincially accredited online certificate, diploma and applied degree programs and 400 courses offered by the member institutions, which are spread out across the province.

"eCampusAlberta has been great to work with. The support staff were wonderful when I first started and helped me set up and log-in. It is very user friendly," Dimmock says.

The members of eCampusAlberta are: Bow Valley College, Grande Prairie Regional College, Grant MacEwan College, Keyano College, Lakeland College, Lethbridge College, Medicine Hat College, Mount Royal College, Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT), Northern Lakes College, NorQuest College, Olds College, Portage College, Red Deer College and SAIT Polytechnic. Visit [www.ecampusalberta.ca](http://www.ecampusalberta.ca) to learn more about courses and programs and how online education may be right for you.

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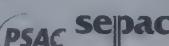
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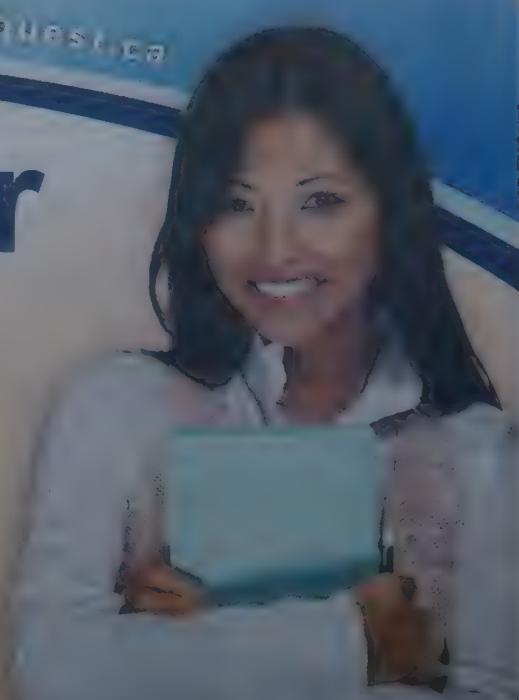
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“ IN THE CHINESE ZODIAC I AM A SNAKE, WHICH MEANS THAT I HAVE NO ARTISTIC VISION. I FEEL MY WAY ON MY BELLY, RESPONDING TO WHATEVER'S IN FRONT OF ME.

MUSIC PREVIEW • OTHER FOLK • BY FAWNDA MITHRUSH (871 words)

# Where Is Your Mind Now, Francis?



Cuddle Junkie | Returning to his older 'artier' style, Black Francis tells stories of demigods and underdogs on *Svn Fngrs*. SUPPLIED

**FRANK BLACK IS ONCE AGAIN USING HIS PIXIES PSEUDONYM, AND MAKING MUSIC THAT HARKS BACK TO HIS HEYDAY**

#### BLACK FRANCIS

Aug. 8 (8pm) Starlite Room (10030-102 St). Tickets available through Ticketmaster (451-8000/ticketmaster.ca)

When I call up Charles Thompson IV at his home in Portland, it takes him a few minutes to settle the house party that seems to be going on. Through the clutter of young voices in the background I hear him say, "I need your help. Tell your mom I have an interview, okay?"

With a gaggle of five kids, the most recent born just in May, the man known to most of the world as the former frontman of The Pixies has precious little time to think, write, or sit down and reminisce about the days when he led one of the most influential rock outfits of the past 20 years. (When Kurt Cobain famously told *Rolling Stone*, "I was basically trying to rip off The Pixies," in a 1994 interview, it was clear this loud-quiet-loud trend had hit the rock world harder than Black or the rest of the band ever dreamed it would.)

So with time constraints in mind, Francis' most recent solo release, *Svn Fngrs*, is a swift seven tracks, written in studio and recorded in six days. The finished EP clocks in at just 20 minutes (not even enough time, apparently, to squeeze in the vowels.)

"Six days isn't actually that short for only seven songs," Black admits. "I don't know if it's a remarkable accomplishment to record something quickly, but I like that process of doing it fast and having the satisfaction of having it done: the whole arc of the experience, beginning, middle,

and end. Over *Boom*, there it is. I like that."

Considering he's churned out 17 studio albums since The Pixies 1993 split-up, the man sure knows how to take the muse as it comes, changing his stage moniker from "Black Francis" to Frank Black, and started releasing solo material. It's just in the past year (and his past two albums) that he's gone back to using Black Francis, his better-known Pixies pseudonym.

"The name change was just a symbolic gesture to the universe," he explains. "It hearkens back to an earlier time when people thought I was on a better path. And it's partly press, too. You know, 'Black is back!' He laughs. It's a smart shift—partly marketing ploy, partly a nod to the success of his earlier efforts. It wasn't so long ago in the 2006 documentary *loudQUIETloud* (about The Pixies' reunion tour) that Black was complaining about always being defined by "something you did when you were 22."

Now he's come around to the mes capability of his past, and it doesn't seem like such a bad thing anymore. "Theoretically there's more people out there who own Pixies albums than Frank Black records," he says. "There's a gesture in that to do of transform to be somehow different than I was before. I think the last albums have seen that shift."

The shift, he explains, brings him back to what he calls "artier" music. Black's first solo release under the Francis name, 2007's *Bluefinger*, was an album-length tribute to the life of hard-living Dutch painter and musician Herman Brood. "[Brood's] attitude is—I don't want to say it's without arrogance or without a loony

sort of rock-star pomp, it has that, it has ego—but it also has this kind of humility." Black explains "He was very unapologetic about the lifestyle, but not in a crass way, in kind of a 'Hey, this is who I am, I'm not pretending to be anything else and I'm not recommending it either. I'm a hopeless alcoholic, junkie, rock 'n' roller painter guy, and that's just who I want to be.' I think people sort of admire that you know in this world of people pretending to be so noble, and pretending to adhere to some sort of higher standard. It's sort of refreshing when someone says, 'I'm a drug addict, and I love it and you can take it or leave it.'"

As for identifying himself with Brood, Black admits there's an "underdog" connection. "They have a word that translates for him in Dutch," he says. "It means 'cuddle junkie.' It's like the lovable loser, the total fuck-up that everyone kind of has a soft spot for." In that same vein, when he was writing *Svn Fngrs*, Black familiarized himself with the mythical Irish hero Cuchulainn—born with seven fingers and seven toes and also something of an underdog figure. "Cuchulainn, he had a rough ride," Black says. "A lot of stuff happened to him that wasn't his fault. You know, love and loss. He got screwed over by people. Died at a young age. He just seemed to struggle a lot in his life."

As for what we can expect in the future from Black, he says with a grin (and this may be another playful crack just for the press): "In the Chinese zodiac I am a snake, which means that I have no artistic vision. I feel my way on my belly, responding to whatever's in front of me. I have no idea. I have no plans."

## HOT TICKETS • MUST-SEE SHOWS

### LOUD LOUD LOUD

#### Crie Fest

Rexall Place • Aug. 13  
\$39.50 | Ticketmaster

Nikki, Tommy, Vince, and Mick bring their hard-rocking gaggle of friends to Rexall this Tuesday, and considering each of the band members is running shorter and shorter on the countdown of their nine lives, you might want to see these most infamous of sex, drugs, and rock 'n' rollers before the chances run out. (Though we're sure they'll be back to making their reality TV appearances in no time once the Fest's tour is over.) The Bear's listeners will be in heaven: look for Papa Roach, Buckcherry, Sixx AM, Trapt, et al.

### LOUD WRECK WRECK

#### Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers

Rexall Place • Aug. 12  
\$59.24 | Ticketmaster

Some sage advice, from the Petty himself: "I don't believe in censorship, but I do believe that an artist has to take some moral responsibility for what he or she is putting out there. And I think a lot of these young kids are going to have to learn the hard way before they realize that you can actually do some damage if you're being careless or frivolous in what you're saying." Are you listening, Crie Fest kids? You better be. The wise man's got decades more under his belt, and a death-grip on the baby boomers besides.

### OLEOLEOLE

#### Adam's Rib

Revelstek Underground • Aug. 12  
\$10 | At the door

And you thought "Adam's Rib" had something to do with the Biblical story about the origin of woman. No, no: it's actually Toronto's Derek Lathrop and his band of pistoleros. According to their MySpace page, they've just released an all-Spanish album, *Perdido en Tradición* (which is supposed to mean "lost in translation," but our Spanish friends tell us it really should be "perdido en la traducción"), consisting of translations of older Adam's Rib tracks and a few originals written entirely en Espanol.



Boys, Boys, Boys | Crie Fest's lineup is noticeably lacking in gender diversity—mostly the Girls. Girls. Girls. Crie's most famous for singing about... Perhaps they can round up some wimpy compadres at the festival after Folk Fest? PHOTO SUPPLIED

# Moon Over Sault Sainte Marie



EAR TO THE ASPHALT ANN VRIEND  
**ROMI MAYES HAS A LOT OF STORIES TO TELL, AND SHE'S NOT EMBARRASSED TO TELL US A DOZEN OR TWO**

"With her unique mix of bourbon-in-fused country blues," Romi Mayes' bio begins, "Romi Mayes will make you miss your mouth when sippin' your beer."

And judging from the stories the Winnipeg singer/songwriter shares with me, she's no stranger to mind-altering substances herself either.

"I don't know if I can think of one story that stands out," she begins, "but my road days are never without their strange occurrences. Like the time Dustin Bentall, Kent McAllister, and I almost got kicked off the Vancouver Island ferry. Or the time Sam Baker, Gurf Morlix, and I were doing a show in San Marcos, Texas and I tried to outrun a train, pretty sure that racing it was a good idea, and almost won."

Mayes doesn't elaborate, which I find perplexing: doesn't "almost winning" a race with a train usually mean dying? No time to clarify: she's

already onto her next story....

"There's also the time I got so loaded after a gig in Houston and lost the rest of my crew and ended up singin' karaoke with a bunch of old men with no teeth until my team came and found me. And the time I spent riding with The D.Rangers was definitely not without its adventures, either. We went across the country in a '76 Chevy camper van that couldn't pass a safety even if the safety inspector was your best friend and you paid him graciously."

She pauses. "Or there was the time Chris Carmichael and I almost got kicked out of a motel in Sault Sainte Marie for doin' some late-night pickin' and boozin' in the bathroom of the motel (where the acoustics

are the best, by the way). We moved it outside onto the roof of the van, which didn't please the neighbouring motel visitors either. Before convincing the management to let us stay the night, I believe I moaned them."

"Some really embarrassing things can happen, too," Mayes continues. "Like the time Billy Joe Shaver and I were doing a show together in Toronto and he called me up to sing with him on a song I didn't know the words to and I had to fake it in front of a silent room of well over 200 people watching."

Mayes has just one more: "I think one of the craziest shows I ever had was a solo show in Omaha. I was hanging out with some locals before the show and they gave me some

mushrooms to eat (the psilocybin type). I just had very little, as to not get too messed up, but they were really strong and they were hitting me full force by the time I had to perform to a packed room. I remember getting through the show just fine but there were some moments where, well, I had to really try to keep it together."

She sighs. "The list goes on and on.... Let's have some beers sometime and I'll tell you more classy stories. Basically I'm pretty sure ridin' the highways with me is like ridin' a tornado."

Mayes plays the Edmonton Folk Music Festival in Gallagher Park this weekend. I suggest putting your beer in one of those toddler-type juice containers.

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**NAS**  
*Untitled*  
(Del Jam)  
★★★½

There are three audiences for *Untitled*: those who simply want a political rap record (no matter what politics the album actually espouses), and those who want a political rap record. This third audience is the hardest to please, as they desire fresh political perspectives and musical skill. The thing is, Nas' political opinions, while admirable, might please the first audience, but aren't nearly engaging enough for the third audience, the ones who will listen to *Untitled* and be, well, underwhelmed.

At the end of the album, Nas proclaims that if anything he's said has offended us, he's succeeded in his goal. But that's precisely the problem with *Untitled*: Nas doesn't go far enough. The most offensive thing he talks about is burning the American flag, which is a shame, considering his talk about recording a song for the album titled "The Fear of a Black Man's Dick," only to be cut. (The song, not the dick.) Now that's more like it.

Nas has a way with words, but he's neither offensive enough (q.v.: old N.W.A., Ice Cube, and Public Enemy) nor angry enough to make *Untitled* come off as anything but a mediocre Nas album. True, that's arguably better than most of the crap getting released these days. But if Nas sparks other mainstream rappers to become more political, maybe *Untitled* will have done its job.

RENATO PAGNANI

## CLINIC

Funf  
(Domino)

★★★☆☆



That odd-looking word "funf," as Kurt Vonnegut once taught us, is German for good old "five." It's also the title of the fifth LP from the Liverpool post-punk band Clinic, an odds-and-sods compilation of B-sides, vinyl-only tracks, and "impossible-to-find rarities" the band recorded over the last 10 years. It's also proof that the quartet is capable of making much harsher-sounding music than the atmospheric but rhythmic minor-key rock they perfected on 2002's *Walking With Thee*, and which was already starting to sound formulaic by the time 2004's *Winchester Cathedral* came out. The guitars come to the forefront on *Funf*, replacing their signature vintage keyboards, making tracks like "The Scythe" and "You Can't Hurt You Anymore" sound like a cross between a '60s garage-rock band and The Jesus and Mary Chain. It's a novelty to hear Clinic with the polish rubbed off, but there aren't enough sustained musical or lyrical ideas here to keep Clinic fans engaged for long.

PAUL MATWYCHUK

## THE WICKED AWESOMES

*Information Entropy 7"*  
(Almost Ready)

★★★½



Ah, to be 18 again. Living in a punkhouse with 15 other people, subsisting on Black Label and Kraft Dinner, not giving two fucks about anyone or anything—Edmonton's Wicked Awesomes represent all that's great about this footloose and fancy-free time in a young man's life. These tykes weren't even hatched yet in the Dead Milkmen's heyday, yet somehow they channel that late-'80s hopelessly teenage thing so well I had to double-check to make sure this wasn't an *Eat Your Paisley* B-side. The title track is a brooding, treble-fueled tribute to breakin' the rules, with shout-sing-shout vocals that clip out at just the right moments. It's as if they were recorded on your sister's *Beverly Hills 90210* boombox. On the flipside is the gracefully titled "Wizardship Stardestroyer," a jangly nugget of power pop, presumably about roleplaying games or Sega Genesis or whatever it is the kids are into these days. A third song would've been nice, but in the neverending party of early adulthood, who's got the time?

TRAVIS SARGENT

## THE D.B. BUXTON REVUE

*No Refund EP*  
(Independent)

★★★☆☆



It was fortunate that I decided to throw on this disc by everyone's favourite busker during a lazy Sunday morning at the office. There's a gritty, mellow quality to Buxton's album that brings his characters to life, and it's easy to get wrapped up in his lyrics—especially when you're in an eerily quiet, holiday-abandoned office. Buxton's poetry conjures up memories and nostalgia—good, bad, and ugly. "Sex With My Ex" particularly stands out in this respect, with taunting lyrics like "When she's sober, she drives over/And she wants to do lines/I'm not pure, but I'm sure/That it's bad for our minds/She gets high, clothes come off/And she wants it from behind." A second spin left a few more of Buxton's songs stuck in my head (always a good sign), most notably "The More You Want" and "Nine Years Old."

I hope to hear more of Buxton, and I know I will, whether it's on the street in front of the Old Navy on Whyte, or on a full-length sometime in the future.

ANDREW PAUL

MUSIC BUZZ • MUNICIPAL HAPPENINGS (561 words)

# 'Twas The Weekend Of Big Valley, And I Didn't Go



## WILDLIFE FISHGRIVKOWSKY

**WELL, I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING EXCEPT LAMENT VANISHED PIRATES. MAYBE I'LL FIND THEM AT FOLK FEST!**

The ride down Highway 21 was planned down to the exact minute days before my phone rang. I opened my eyes. Closed them again. Uh-uh. No fucking way. Not this time. And so it was: I didn't go to Big Valley Jamboree—it would've been my eleventh visit. (Or is it the twelfth?) But even I guarantee to hang out with Marty Stuart's hair couldn't raise the zombie.

Ask any journalist and they'll tell you (probably not in print) how tedious it becomes to try and find colour stories at a festival you've scoured every inch of year after year after year. Pig races? Wrote that one

in '97. The old tarp filled with water in the back of a pickup—the redneck hot tub—wows, can't wait to expand that to 600 words. Rows of empty seats roped off in front of the main stage, unoccupied by the corporate sponsors drinking free. Canadians backstage? Words will never change this. Apparently there were tits, too. But you can't really go on about them too long, not even in the Sun.

Global entertainment thieves were briefly on edge this week as thepiratebay.org disappeared, starting a flurry of rumours including a YouTube posting of their offices in Sweden being raided back in 2006. Like it would somehow take two years to shut down their filesharing supercomputers. That raid, however, moved the servers from Sweden to undisclosed locations all over the world, much like BitTorrenting works, to the dismay of the music and film industries, who have spent hundreds of millions in legal fees closing the door on a barn that no longer has walls.

Early claims that music piracy would destroy music itself have yet to materialize, while larger bands—especially those loved by baby boom-

ers—now feel free to charge hundreds of dollars a ticket for live appearances. Back when I was a penniless child working at Northlands, I used to work a desired concert and fake sickness then watch Alice Cooper from the bleachers.

Some Norwegian newspapers got Pirate Bay's trip underwater wrong, but the whole time the site's peeps insisted they were just upgrading their hardware. You can go ahead and rejoice or get mad about it, but seriously, does anyone actually expect me to fucking pay for *Xanadu*?

Finally in local news: the *Sunset 6* is frozen in Carbonite until further rescuing as half their band is moving to Victoria. They played their "last show" at Wunderbar Monday, but remain hopeful to actually exist soon enough. "Everyone who moves away comes back, right?" singer Tammy MC plaintively asked.

Happily, Edmonton ex-pats Tommy Chong, Michael J. Fox, and Alf were not in the audience to offer their opinions on the subject.

Meanwhile, see you at the Folk Fest! I'll be the one hiding under the flask of Jameson.

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## SEEN IT LIVE • GREAT GIGS YOU MISSED LAST WEEK



**Re-Mains Of The Day** | How did we all even fit in there? Screaming outback-outlaw country, Mick Daley of the Re-Mains came all the way to Wunderbar Monday, leaving with new fans and a lot of tequila on his shirt. PHOTO BY FISH GRIEKOWSKY

### TOXIC HOLOCAUST (UNREST FEST)

**NEW CITY SUBURBS • AUG. 3**

Unrest Fest filled New City's stage for two days this weekend with some of the most famous and respected punk rock bands still playing music.

True, groups like G.B.H. and the Anti-Nowhere League have all but traded in their first guitars for walkers and their liquor for Geritol (1977 has come and gone—could it be time for those bands to pack it in?), but for newer, younger groups like Portland's Toxic Holocaust, the original frantic energy of punk is still shaking the floorboards and cracking the woodwork.

The first day of the fest attracted

people from all over North America. As I stood in line for Toxic Holocaust, IDs being checked at the door, in front of me was a girl from Georgia, two people from Philadelphia, and outside the doors waited tribes of crusty punks who'd hitchhiked to the festival from God knows where, trying to bum enough change to buy a ticket.

Toxic Holocaust's set was the perfect soundtrack to all this chaos: lead singer/songwriter and guitarist Joel Grind's menacing stance, hard-edged aura, and biting guitar tones sent the crowd into a zealous, booze-fuelled hurricane. It was over-the-top, colour-by-numbers thrash: the type of stuff where you can accurately predict every chord change and volume

shift.

But so what? Toxic Holocaust's live show has that sweaty, muscular anchor—the band has an intensity and tightness that makes you hold your breath. At one point, an enthusiastic crust kid jumped onstage to share the mic, whereupon Grind strong-armed him mid-chord, clocked him in the face, and knocked him back into the churning mass of sweaty thrashers below. This was his territory: he owned the stage, he owned the chords, he owned the slam pit. The message was loud and clear: they may not be out to do anything new or exciting with their music—not at all—but they simply do not fuck with Toxic Holocaust.

EMANON MCGRATH

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# on screen

“CAN THE POLICE “TRIANGULATE” CELLPHONE SIGNALS WITH INSTANTANEOUS, GPS-LIKE PRECISION? IN THIS UNIVERSE, THEY CAN.”

MOVIE REVIEW · HIGH FIDELITY · BY MICHAEL HINGSTON | 750 words

## Go, Weed Racer, Go!

THE STONER ACTION COMEDY  
*PINEAPPLE EXPRESS* PULLS  
THE APATOW COMEDY TEAM  
OUT OF ITS LOSING STREAK

### PINEAPPLE EXPRESS

Directed by David Gordon Green. Starring Seth Rogen, James Franco, Danny McBride. Now playing.

★★★★★

How good is *Pineapple Express*, the ultra-rare strain of marijuana that fuels the latest comedy from the Judd Apatow assembly line?

According to Saul Silver (James Franco), the only dealer in town who's actually been able to get any, it's really, really good. It's "like God's vagina." It's so good that smoking it is almost a crime, "like killing a unicorn with a bong."

When Saul and his customer, Dale Denton (Seth Rogen), test it out by lighting up all three ends on a massive "cross joint"—the picture in your head is probably pretty accurate—their bugged-out eyes and gasping, manic fits of coughing confirm that we are indeed dealing with some potent shit.

Fair enough. But with Apatow's usually reliable writing/acting collective batting an embarrassing zero-for-two so far in 2008 (with the dreadful *Forgetting Sarah Marshall* and last month's all-time low-point *Step Brothers*), the far more important question is: how good is *Pineapple Express*?

Well, it's not quite God's vagina, but it is pretty wonderful.

Rogen's Dale is a protagonist very much in the spirit of other Apatow Productions productions: he's a slob, he has a job low on prestige but high on verbal abuse (he's a process server, handing out subpoenas to people who'd rather not be tracked down),



Dealer's Choice | Seth Rogen and James Franco find themselves commandeering a cop car (don't ask) in *Pineapple Express*. PHOTO SUPPLIED

and he smokes a lot of weed. He has a girlfriend (Amber Heard), but she's still in high school. When we first meet him, he's driving around in his car, smoking constantly, listening to "Electric Avenue" on repeat, and announcing his opinions to whichever daytime talk radio show will put him on the air. This, we sense, is a man steadily approaching some kind of life crisis.

His wake-up call comes when he accidentally witnesses a murder while staking out his next target, Ted Jones (Gary Cole), who turns out to be a drug kingpin on the verge of a war with rival suppliers known only (and comically) as "the Asians." Rogen freaks out and inelegantly flees the scene back to Saul's, convinced that he's about to be offed for seeing too much; Ted and his crooked police officer accomplice (Rosie Perez) see Rogen's car speed off and

they too freak out, convinced that Rogen is the Asians' newest hired gun.

What follows could be called a fish-out-of-bongwater story, full of car chases, shotgun battles, and more than one instance where pot-fuelled paranoia comes true. Can the police "triangulate" cellphone signals with instantaneous, GPS-like precision? In this universe they can. Or how about Franco's second-hand description of Cole ("I heard he's crazy about murdering"), which turns out to actually be pretty realistic? The jokes are still there, and fully formed, but the stakes quickly escalate beyond the everyday problems of your typical pothead—it's more Guantánamo Bay than White Castle, so to speak.

We've seen stoner comedies before, and we've also seen stoners become reluctant action heroes before, but one of the reasons *Pineapple Express*

is so fresh is its consistently loving attention to detail. Rather than simply focus on jokes that stoners would laugh at, director David Gordon Green (with able assistance from Rogen and Evan Goldberg's screenplay) faithfully recreates the way that stoners really behave—a far more complex and satisfying goal. When Franco listens to Rogen explain what his job entails, watch how blissfully unaware Franco's reactions are: he mumbles incoherently to himself, trying and failing to follow even the simplest lines of logic, his glazed eyes betraying an underlying fear of having absolutely no idea what is going on around him. It's funny, sure, but it's also perfectly true to life.

At this point, though, I wonder if it's even possible to affect the marketability of a film with Apatow's name on it. Just like his other films, males aged 18-24 will likely make

up two-thirds of *Pineapple Express'* audience, and, just like the others, it will likely be accused of being unfair to its female characters and even borderline sexist. These reactions aren't necessarily deserved—*Brideshead Revisited* has an equally blinkered male point of view, but you won't see Evelyn Waugh's name getting raked over the coals with quite so much indignation—but they do confirm that Apatow, Rogen, and company are the comedy team to beat in today's Hollywood.

Personally, I couldn't be happier. After all, who could hate a film that ends with the main characters eating breakfast at a diner, broken bones and bullet wounds untreated, reminiscing about the fight scene that just happened? Even a night of explosions and gunfire can't stop the stoner's innate desire for instant nostalgia.

### DVD DICTATOR · THE MOVIES YOU MUST BUY THIS TUESDAY

#### ORPHANAGES!

#### Brand Upon The Brain!

CAST | Gretchen Krich, Sullivan Brown, Maya Lawson, Katherine E. Scharhon

You can top off your screening of Guy Maddin's *My Winnipeg* next week—you are going to see *My Winnipeg* next week, aren't you? Because if you're not, the Dictator doesn't even want to know you—by immersing yourself in Maddin's previous effort, an equally delirious descent into feverish autobiography. It's the first Maddin film to get the deluxe Criterion Collection treatment, and it comes complete with six alternate narration tracks by the likes of Laurie Anderson, Isabella Rossellini, and Eli Wallach.

#### ODDITIES!

#### CJ7

CAST | Stephen Chow, Jiao Xu, Kitty Zhang Yugi

Even the cult-film fanatics who championed Stephen Chow for his exuberant martial-arts comedies *God of Cookery*, *Shaolin Soccer*, and *Kung Fu Hustle* didn't quite know what to make of *CJ7*, an eccentric family comedy about a dirt-poor Chinese labourer who gives his son a new "toy" he's discovered in a trash heap—not realizing it's actually an alien being. Think of it as a mischievous parody of *E.T.*, in which Chow tries to come up with as many ways as possible of torturing the ridiculously cute (and apparently indestructible) extra-terrestrial.

#### OMAR!

#### The Wire: The Complete Fifth Season

CAST | Dominic West, Wendell Pierce, Michael K. Williams, Clark Johnson, Thomas McCarthy

Well, the greatest program in television history has finished its run—with only two Emmy nominations, total, to show for it. That's five fewer nominations than *Two and a Half Men* got this season alone. Grr. But in a way, the Emmys' refusal to acknowledge *The Wire*'s greatness is kind of appropriate. It's a show that took place in a world where honourable soul went rewarded, where good men were thwarted, and injustice and inequality reigned. So long, *Wire*... you'll be missed.



Far From The Maddin Crowd | When it played New York and Los Angeles, *Brand Upon The Brain!* was accompanied by live music, narration, and sound effects. You'll have to use your imagination to recreate that experience with the DVD. PHOTO SUPPLIED



MOVIE REVIEW · JEAN SPLICING · BY JONN KMECH (497 words)

# Everything You Always Wanted To Know About Slacks But Were Afraid To Ask

**THOSE MAGICAL VOODOO TROUSERS MAKE A RETURN IN THE INNOCUOUS SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS 2**

THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS 2

Directed by Sanaa Hamri. Starring America Ferrera, Amber Tamblyn, Alexis Bledel, Blake Lively. Now playing.

★★★☆☆

It must have been fate: on the night of the *Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants* 2 screening, I was sporting my well-worn pair of Levis, which magically fit me (and every other guy with a 34" waist) perfectly. Since high school, they had been with me every step of the way on my heartwarming coming-of-age journey through relationship problems, friendship strife, and juicy girl gossip at my pillow-fight-themed slumber parties. But whereas I shall forever stick by my Levis in times of trial, the Sisterhood traded their original denims for a secondhand pair of patchwork pants, and the results are mottled, though still inoffensive.

Three years after the events of 2005's *Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*, the story—which I'm sure you all recall—picks up with the four girls (Lena, Carmen, Bridget, and Tibby) moving away to separate universities and pursuing their own diverse, easily categorized interests, such as soc-

cer, painting, and theatre. Although they are miles apart, they're still connected by their curve-conforming voodoo pants, which they swap regularly—via FedEx, the official carrier of all enchanted pantaloons—for use whenever seeking emotional comfort.

There's precious little central plot to *Sisterhood 2*. Despite their prominence in the title, the Pants feel more like a MacGuffin, barely factoring into the story (though calling it just *The Sisterhood* might suggest a ritualistic, Cthulhu-worshipping witch cult). This is more of a drawback, as the entire enterprise's scattershot nature nearly induces whiplash in the viewer, in more ways than one. Besides leaping back and forth between the girls' separate (though overlapping) lives, the film makes jarring tonal shifts between opposite ends of the emotional spectrum.

The four leads define their characters and differing personalities amiably enough, but the real problem is that director Sanaa Hamri has tried to cram three of Ann Brashares' original *Sisterhood* books into one film. Realistic teen-girl issues such as awkward breakups, pregnancy scares, and tension between friends are all handled in a genuinely down-to-earth way, but the glaringly depressing subplot about Bridget's



Teenage Wasteband | Alexis Bledel prepares to slip into something more comfortable in *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2*. PHOTO SUPPLIED

attempt to reconnect with her grandmother after her mother's suicide is at odds with the rest of the film's girl-talk feel.

Similarly, the dialogue goes from sedate, dull chitchat to outrage and anger within seconds. More annoyingly, many of *Sisterhood's* actors sound less like they're making normal conversation as announcing

morals directly out of *Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul*. There's no faith in the adolescent audience's ability to pick up on themes like how you need to have a little faith in relationships or how people can be complex; instead, Hamri just hits them over the head with eyeroll-inducing lines like "Sometimes, you just need to have a little faith," or "Cars are easy. It's

people you need a manual for."

It's saccharine schmaltz, but at least it's wholesome, non-threatening schmaltz. Parents, take comfort: this is *Sex and the City* for the *Seventeen* magazine crowd, replacing the vulgarity of *Carrie's* brood with the family-friendly, rosy-cheeked romances of a homecoming sock hop.

TELEVISION · A POWERFUL STENCH OF MENDACITY | 1666 words

## I Know This Much Is Untrue



TELEPROMPTER NICOLA SIMPSON KHULLAR FIBBERS BEWARE! LOCAL PRODUCERAVA KARVONEN IS ON YOUR TRAIL WITH HER NEW SHOW THE LIE DETECTIVE

Any television fan worth their salt knows how to lie under pressure. "Yes dear, I remembered to tape Game 7." "No, of course I wasn't watching *The Next Food Network Star* instead of writing my column." Sometimes I think I would be a good spy, because I'm actually a pretty good liar. (Mr. Teleprompter would disagree, but he doesn't know all the lies I've told him over the years.)

But when local producer Ava Karvonen told me about *The Lie Detective*, the new 13-episode documentary series she's putting together, my

first thought was: "Wow, I'd hate to be on that show!" Apparently I'm not alone in that. The biggest challenge, she tells me, has been avoiding comparisons to Fox's reality hit *The Moment of Truth*.

"Shows like *Moment of Truth* can be unkind to the people under the polygraph," she reminds me. "Ken [Donaldson] never asks surprise questions like that. The questions are all relevant to the situations, but people are still suspicious."

The show's premise is simple: polygraph examiner Ken Donaldson hooks people up to the lie detector, and voilà! Truths are revealed. The show might focus on a couple dealing with suspected infidelity, or a family with child abuse secrets, or a bar where workers are skimming from the till.

Think about it from the perspective of a business owner, Karvonen tells me. "Let's say you're a big company with 10,000 employees, and everyone goes home with \$10 of office supplies every month." The math is revealing. And come on, who among the cubicle-dwellers

hasn't "borrowed" a ream of paper or two from the office for their home printer?

But either way, the show is not just about the black and white of innocent and guilty—it's about forcing people to examine themselves at the same time. "We see a lot of people who have a great deal of pain in their lives, and they can't get past something," Karvonen says. "Poly-

graphing him come up with the right questions to ask."

And just so you don't think participants are being ambushed, Karvonen is quick to tell me about a struggling couple who applied to be on the show only after their pitch to Maury Povich was turned down.

She chuckles. "But Ken can be a bit intimidating. He's a big guy." Having a former firefighter hook you up to

*Detective*? There's no way to know yet, but Karvonen is looking forward to the show's tentatively scheduled debut somewhere in the CTV family in the late fall.

The show is a strange mix of Canadian-style optimism and American-style surveillance. Donaldson himself admits he got into the gig after 9/11, when he saw a need in the marketplace for "forensic psych-

"WE SEE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE A GREAT DEAL OF PAIN IN THEIR LIVES, AND THEY CAN'T GET PAST SOMETHING. POLYGRAPH IS A KIND OF THERAPY. WE WANT THIS TO BE ABOUT HEALING AND RESOLUTION."

graph is a kind of therapy. We want this to be about healing and resolution."

In a way, it's good that *The Lie Detective* is taking a different approach, since the validity of polygraphs is notoriously unreliable. "Ultimately," Karvonen says, "Ken provides an educational tool. And he's a bit of a counselor as well. People want to come clean about lots of things in their lives, and it's really interesting

a polygraph might be a bit scary, but the fear is mitigated when his wife hands you a self-help book at the end of it. "Yeah, he likes to follow up with people afterwards. In the end it's not about the polygraph so much as relationships, friendship, and soul. All these stories are about heart in the end, and people feel relief over the results."

So the real question is: how will Canadian audiences respond to *The Lie*

physiologists" for pre-employment screenings. Are we naïve enough to think that families can be healed with the truth? Or are we really jaded in our belief that there's a bad apple in every bunch? Only the ratings will tell.

After all, if *The Lie Detective* is about a quest for the truth, then you have to start with the assumption that everyone is fibbing. How depressing! How... American!

MOVIE REVIEW · UNWELCOME SEQUEL · BY JAMES HAMILTON | 581 words

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Let's Play The Pyramid! | Brendan Fraser leaps back into action in *The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor*. PHOTO SUPPLIED

**IF DRAGON EMPEROR DOESN'T SEND THE MUMMY FRANCHISE BACK TO THE SARCOPHAGUS, THEN NOTHING WILL**

THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR

Directed by Rob Cohen. Starring Brendan Fraser, Maria Bello.

Jet Li. Now playing.

★★★☆☆

I'm sure it was with the best of intentions that producer Stephen Sommers chose to resurrect the classic 1930s movie monster *The Mummy*, and it seemed that everyone was with him. Audiences flocked to see his reimagining of the Karloff classic and its sequel, *The Mummy Returns*—both are brain-dead but ac-

ogist Rick (Brendan Fraser) and his partner/wife Evelyn (the slumming Maria Bello)—living like retired socialites. The success of their previous mummy encounters have left them wealthy but bored. That's why they jump at the chance to deliver a mystical jewel to a Chinese museum. Besides, it's a good excuse to check in on their now-adult son (Luke Ford), who has entered the family business of grave-robbing. He's uncovered the tomb of Han (Jet Li), the evil Dragon Emperor, who 10,000 years ago...

Oh God. I could go on and on, but I just don't have the strength.

Time and again, our heroes remind us of how much they hate mummies, and it didn't take me long to

referring to the plot holes and gaps in logic you naturally expect to find in movies like this; I'm talking about things like the addition of the incredibly talented Maria Bello possessing an English accent so bad it sounds like Dick Van Dyke was her dialect coach. I'm talking about the way the film barely uses the natural talents of martial arts superstars Jet Li and Michelle Yeoh, relying instead on lame slo-mo-fu for their action scenes. Even Brendan Fraser, Hollywood's answer to Minute Rice (easy to digest, can be served with anything), seems a little unsure of what exactly he's shooting at.

But what struck me most was the film's PG-13 rating; the ratio of dis-

**I HAVE TO SAY, THIS IS ONE MUMMY I'D LIKE  
TO FORGET—A MILF, IF YOU WILL.  
(GROAN AWAY—I'M THE ONE WHO HAD TO SIT THROUGH IT.)**

tion-packed bits of fun harking back to the glory days of 1930s serials... or blatant Indiana Jones ripoffs, depending on who you ask. Either way, they each made pyramids of cash, so the return of some kind of Mummy was inevitable.

Well, it took seven years, but the franchise shuffles back from the grave with *The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor*. I have to say, this is one Mummy I'd like to forget—a MILF, if you will. (Groan away—I'm the one who had to sit through it.)

As the film opens, we find the O'Connells—tomb-raiding archaeol-

ogists—start agreeing with them. From its overlong intro all the way through its nonsensical plot and too-long chase/fight/battle scenes, it's tough to find any redeeming qualities in *Tomb of the Dragon Emperor*. Okay, maybe the Emperor and his army of terra cotta warriors look cool and the appearance of a gang of Yeti was neat, but the dialogue and acting are so terrible it's impossible to enjoy any of the CGI goodness. (And yes, there is such a thing.)

As I watched *The Mummy: TDE*, I was struck by how many things just didn't make sense. And I'm not

embowlements and gun deaths to eight-year old kids in the audience really set off my inner "not right" alarm. There is so much gun violence in this thing that it began to get a little offensive.

You can't even kill a mummy with a gun, but after three movies and one spinoff (*The Scorpion King*), I think I know what might send this festering franchise back to its fetid tomb for good—a sequel this bad! Then again, right before the end credits, we're told that mummies are soon discovered in Peru.

Damn it.

## MOVIE GUIDE WHAT'S PLAYING IN THE THEATRES

Still Hitting The Nautilus Machine, We See | Ben Stiller brings his pumped-up brand of comedy to *Tropic Thunder* (opening this Wednesday). PHOTO SUPPLIED

## OPENING THIS FRIDAY

## IN THE GOOD OLD SUMMERTIME

Judy Garland, Van Johnson, and Spring Byington star in *The Great Ziegfeld* director Robert Z. Leonard's 1949 musical remake of *The Shop Around the Corner*, about a pair of feuding co-workers who are unaware they are also each other's secret romantic pen pal. Royal Alberta Museum: Mon, Aug 11 (8pm).

## PINEAPPLE EXPRESS

Seth Rogen (who also co-wrote the script), James Franco, Gary Cole, and Rose Perez star in *All the Real Girls* director David Gordon Green's stoner comedy about a pair of potheads who go on the run after witnessing a cop commit a murder. Produced by Judd Apatow.

## SINGH IS KINNG

Akshay Kumar, Katrina Kaif, and Om Puri star in writer/director Aneesh Bazmee's Bollywood comedy about a hapless Sikh who travels to Australia on a mission from his village, and inadvertently becomes king of the Australian criminal underworld. In Hindi and Urdu with English subtitles.

## THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS 2

Alexis Bledel, America Ferrera, Blake Lively, and Amber Tamblyn star in *Something New* director Sanaa Hami's sequel to the 2005 hit about four teenaged girls whose friendship is symbolized by a pair of magical secondhand jeans that somehow fits each of their bodies perfectly. Based on the series of novels by Ann Brashares.

## ALSO PLAYING

## BEFORE THE RAINS

This period drama about a British spice merchant, the married Indian woman he has an affair with, and the rural village that erupts into outrage as he wants to be Merchant Ivory, but is more like Mills & Boon.

★★★★★

## THE DARK KNIGHT

Muddled theme, incoherent action sequences, anticlimactic screenplay, ridiculous Bat-vibe... none of these flaws seem to matter to the fanboys, who've already declared it a masterpiece. And despite its flaws, it's still an impressive piece of work, with a richness of character and incident that most comic-book movies never even attempt.

★★★★★

## GET SMART

A bland, dated spy spoof, made tolerable (if not exactly memorable) by the appealing chemistry between Steve Carell and Anne Hathaway.

★★★★★

## HANCOCK

This superhero satire has been sold and marketed like another Will Smith mass-audience blockbuster, but its dark tone and abrupt plot reversals will only appeal to a handful of moviegoers. Will you be one of them? We sure were, despite its flaws.

★★★★★

## HELLBOY II: THE GOLDEN ARMY

Guillermo del Toro is second to none when it comes to designing monsters and otherworldly creatures, but he's more erratic when it comes to dialogue and pace. His flaws and his strengths are both on display in this one, with the flaws ultimately gaining the upper hand.

★★★★★

## JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH

Rotten to the core? No, not really; in fact, the worst thing you can say about this old-fashioned, kid-friendly 3D adventure starring CGI star Brendan Fraser is that it's merely pleasant and forgettable.

★★★★★

## KUNG FU PANDA

Jack Black, you are hereby forgiven for *Shark Tale*. This animated underdog (underbear?) adventure is predictable, sure, but full of playful fight scenes, great visuals, and obvious affection for the conventions of the martial-arts genre.

★★★★★

## MAMMA MIA!

A deliberately tacky, amateurish big-screen version of the ABBA stage musical. Film-critic Napoleon: meet your "Waterloo."

★★★★★

## SPACE CHIMPS

How can you not love a cartoon about chimpanzee astronauts? When it's a charmless cookie-cutter piece of corporate product like *Space Chimps*, that's when.

★★★★★

## STEP BROTHERS

Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly may well be the Hope and Crosby of our age—if Hope and Crosby were two pudgy men beating the snot out of each other for 90 minutes straight.

★★★★★

## SWING VOTE

It's ironic: this toothless political "satire" about a presidential election that winds up riding on one man's vote feels as if it's been as watered-down and focus-grouped-to-death as most political campaigns.

★★★★★

## THE WACKNESS

Isn't it bit soon for mid-'90s nostalgia? Jonathan Levine sure doesn't think so, and while his comedy/drama about a teenage pot dealer in 1994 hits a lot of familiar notes, it should still give you a nostalgic contact high.

★★★★★

## WALL-E

Tremendous even by Pixar's impossibly high standards. Just don't let it fool you into renting the movie version of *Hello, Dolly!*—that movie is truly terrible.

★★★★★

## WANTED

Shallow, flashy, and kind of morally reprehensible. But Angelina Jolie is always fun to watch when she's in slinky-maneater mode, and so we'll give this one a summer pass.

★★★★★

## THE X-FILES: I WANT TO BELIEVE

Oh, we wanted to believe too. But this creepy thriller—no better than a middling episode of the TV series—sorely tested our faith.

★★★★★

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@ 2:00 pm

**Rated TBA**

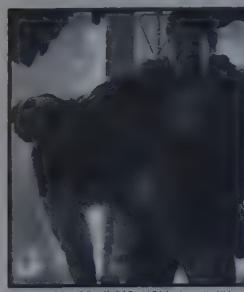
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**PRINCESS**  
10337 - 82 Ave

**The Wackness**  
Nightly @ 6:50 & 9:10 pm  
Sat & Sun Matinees @ 2:30 pm  
Rated 16A

**Before the Rains**  
Nightly @ 7:00 & 9:00 pm  
Sat & Sun Matinees @ 2:00 pm  
Rated PG MATURE THEMES

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Homerooticism? Really? David Edelstein spotted it in *Pineapple Express*, but we just don't see it. PHOTO SUPPLIED

**THIS WEEK: WILL CRITICS CLIMB ON BOARD PINEAPPLE EXPRESS?**

**Scott Weinberg, Cinematic** | "I won't get into the precise reasons, but my friends always seem to think I'm going to LOVE the next big 'pot comedy.' They chuckle and assume such silly things despite the fact that the only real pothead comedies that I truly enjoy are *Up in Smoke*, *Next Movie*, and a large portion of the Harold & Kumar misadventures. Frankly I'm of the opinion that most pot comedies feel like they were written by someone very stoned, and let's just say that

written don't always do their best work when they're extra-baked. Oh, you'll definitely find a few cannabis-caused giggles in *Half-Baked*, *Grandma's Boy*, and *Smiley Face*—just not enough to sustain a whole movie. If it's me you're asking, So it is with much pleasure, enthusiasm, and recently-applied vision that I offer you *Pineapple Express*, which just may be the *Casablanca* of pot comedies."

**Jeffrey Wells, Hollywood Elsewhere** | "The best parts of this film are simply about Rogen and Franco talking to each other in a room. Their back-and-forths are beautifully acted. Franco plays the sweet, not-educated, not-very-

bright Stan Laurel character and Seth Rogen does the blustery, somewhat more assertive but almost-as-clueless Oliver Hardy thing. Some of their scenes together are inspired. I was levitating out of my seat. If it's legit to suggest Robert Downey Jr.'s performance in *Tropic Thunder* is Oscar-worthy (and I do feel that way), it also has to be cool to talk about Franco in the same light. As a Best Supporting Actor contender, I mean. The man is dead perfect in the role. It's easily the best thing he's done since that TNT James Dean biopic.... What was that, seven years ago?"

**David Edelstein, New York** | "In *Knocked Up*, Ro-

gen's unself-conscious jabber had a hilarious edge. The more he rationalized his inadequacies, the lower your jaw dropped. Here that jabber feels like schtik—and, with all the echoes of Albert Brooks, secondhand schtik. Dale has a very cute blonde high-school girlfriend, but it's even harder to fathom her attraction to him than it was Katherine Heigl's. This is a very insular universe, arrested in some creepy (but financially bounteous) pu-  
bescence. When Dale carries the limp Saul from a burning building (it echoes *Superbad*'s climax), it's anyone's guess if Rogen and Goldberg mean to underline or parody the homoeroticism of buddy pictures."



**Scotiabank Theatre Edmonton with IMAX®**

**SHOWTIMES AUGUST 8-14, 2008**

**GARNEAU**

8712 - 109 STREET • 433-0728

**SINGH IS KING**

Nightly 6:45, 9:15. Sat & Sun matinees 2:00.

**PRINCESS**

10337 - 97 AVENUE • 433-0728

**BEFORE THE RAINS**

Nightly 7:00, 9:00. Sat & Sun matinees 2:00. Matura themes.

**THE WACKNESS**

Nightly 6:45, 9:15. Sat & Sun matinees 2:30.

**JUST BURIED**

Nightly 7:00, 9:15. Sat & Sun matinees 3:30. Sexual content, grey scenes.

**PARKLAND**

205 - 10th Street, Spruce St • 962-2332

**PINEAPPLE EXPRESS**

Nightly 7:00, 9:00. Matinees Sat Sun 10a & Thurs 10:30, 3:30. Subtitles: 10:30.

**SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS 2**

PG

Nightly 6:45, 9:15. Matinees Sat Sun 10a & Thurs 10:30, 3:30. For matinees: 10:30, 3:30.

**THE SUMMER TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR**

PG

Nightly 7:00, 9:00. Matinees Sat Sun 10a & Thurs 10:30, 3:30. Violence, frightening scenes.

**STEP BROTHERS**

Nightly 7:00, 9:00. Matinees Sat Sun 10a & Thurs 10:30, 3:30.

Violence, coarse language, crude content, not recommended for children.

**DARK KNIGHT**

Nightly 6:45, 9:15. Matinees Sat Sun 10a & Thurs 10:30, 3:30.

**PG**

Violence, frightening scenes, not recommended for young children.

**MAMMA MIA!**

Nightly 7:00, 9:15. Matinees Sat Sun 10a & Thurs 10:30, 3:30.

**HANCOCK**

Nightly 9:15. Violence, crude content, coarse language.

**SPACE CHIMPS**

Nightly 6:50, matinee. Sat Sun 10a & Thurs 10:30, 3:30.

**METRO CINEMA**

9828 101 AVENUE (EDMONTON MALL) • 425-9721

**NO SHOWINGS IN AUGUST**

**GRANDIN THEATRE**

GRANDIN MALL, 911 WINSTON CHURCHILL AVE., ST. ALBERT • 450-9922

**PINEAPPLE EXPRESS**

Nightly 7:00, 9:00. Matinees 5:00, 7:00, 10:00. Substance abuse. No passes.

**STEP BROTHERS**

Nightly 7:00, 9:00. Matinees 5:00, 7:00, 10:00. Coarse language, crude content, not recommended for children.

**SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS 2**

Nightly 7:00, 9:00. Matinees 5:00, 7:00, 10:00. Coarse language, grey scenes.

**THE DARK KNIGHT**

Nightly 6:45, 9:15. Matinees 7:00, 9:15. Violence, frightening scenes, not recommended for young children. No passes.

**THE SUMMER TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR**

Nightly 7:00, 9:00. Matinees 7:00, 9:00. Violence, frightening scenes.

**NO PASSES**

**LE DUC CINEMAS**

4707 50 ST. Leduc • 988-7278

**PINEAPPLE EXPRESS**

Nightly 7:00, 9:30. Matinees daily 10:15. Violence.

**SPACE CHIMPS**

Daily matinees 10:30, 3:30.

**STEP BROTHERS**

Nightly 6:55, 9:00. Matinees daily 12:30, 3:30.

Coarse language, crude content, not recommended for children.

**THE SUMMER TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR**

Nightly 7:05, 9:25. Matinees 1:05, 3:25. Violence.

**THE DARK KNIGHT**

Nightly 6:40, 9:45. Violence, frightening scenes, not recommended for young children.

**WETASKIWIN CINEMA 4 PLEX**

3840 55 St. Wetaskiwin • 557-9922

**PINEAPPLE EXPRESS**

Nightly 7:00, 9:30. Matinees 1:00, 3:30. Violence.

**SCOTIABANK THEATRE EDMONTON**

101 109 STREET • 433-0728

**SPACE CHIMPS**

Matinees 1:00, 3:30.

**STEP BROTHERS**

Nightly 6:55, 9:15. Matinees daily 12:30, 3:30. Coarse language, crude content, not recommended for children.

**THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR**

PG

Nightly 7:05, 9:25. Matinees 1:05, 3:25. Violence.

**THE DARK KNIGHT**

Nightly 6:45, 9:45. Violence, frightening scenes, not recommended for young children.

**PG**

Violence, frightening scenes.

**THE X-FILES: I WANT TO BELIEVE**

PG

Nightly 7:05, 9:25. Matinees 1:05, 3:25. Violence.

**PIRENE EXPRESS**

Matinees 1:00, 3:30, 6:45, 9:45. Substance abuse. No passes.

**THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR**

PG

Nightly 7:05, 9:25. Matinees 1:05, 3:25. Violence.

**THE DARK KNIGHT**

Nightly 6:45, 9:45. Violence, frightening scenes, not recommended for young children.

**PG**

Violence, frightening scenes.

**SWING VOTE**

PG

Nightly 7:05, 9:45. Coarse language.

**THE X-FILES: I WANT TO BELIEVE**

PG

Nightly 7:05, 9:45. Violence.

**STEP BROTHERS**

PG

Nightly 7:05, 9:45. Matinees 1:05, 3:25. Coarse language, crude content, not recommended for children.

**THE DARK KNIGHT**

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**PG**

Violence, frightening scenes.

**PIRENE EXPRESS**

Matinees 1:00, 3:30, 6:45, 9:45. Substance abuse. No passes.

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**THE DARK KNIGHT**

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**PG**

Violence, frightening scenes.

**SWING VOTE**

PG

Nightly 7:05, 9:45. Coarse language.

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Nightly 7:05, 9:45. Matinees 1:05, 3:25. Violence.

**THE DARK KNIGHT**

Nightly 6:45, 9:45.

COMMENTARY · SCREEN TO STAGE · BY PAUL MATWYCHUK | 799 words

# Magnolia Could Have Used An Intermission Anyway

**SEE OFFERS ITS SUGGESTIONS FOR GREAT MOVIES THAT LOCAL THEATRE COMPANIES COULD TURN INTO PLAYS**

One of the common complaints about Broadway musicals is that nobody bothers to come up with an original idea for a musical anymore. Instead, New York theatres are clogged with stage adaptations of well-known movies: *Legally Blonde*, *The Lion King*, *Hairspray*, *The Producers*, *Young Frankenstein*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *The Full Monty*, *The Wedding Singer*, *Xanadu*—presold, name-brand properties designed, for the most part, to appeal to the tourist trade rather than theatre aficionados.

To some extent, that worrying trend has gained a foothold here in Edmonton. Two of last year's biggest box-office successes were *Beauty and the Beast*, an adaptation of the Disney cartoon musical at The Citadel, and *Misery*, a stage version of Stephen King's novel, heavily influenced by the 1990 movie starring Kathy Bates. Both shows earned multiple Sterling nominations.

If more Edmonton theatre companies are going to go down this route and use stage adaptations of movies as a way of convincing non-playgoers to buy tickets, then SEE thought we'd extend a helping hand to local artistic directors and suggest movies that we think would produce interesting artistic results, not just a few more filled seats. But they'd better act fast—it's only a matter of time before someone else snaps up the rights!

## THE CITADEL

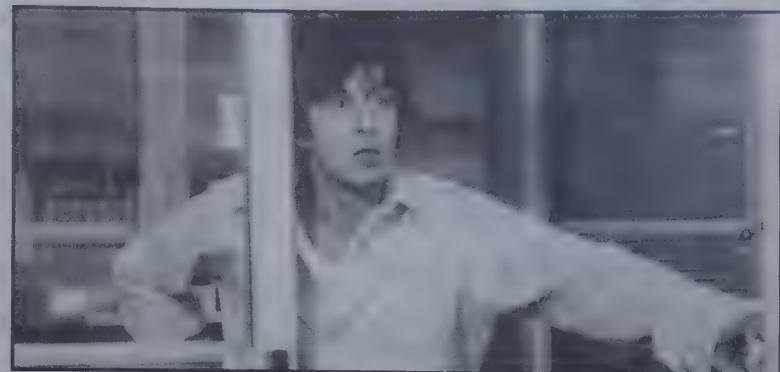
No other company in Edmonton has the resources of the Citadel—the ability to stage ambitious shows with huge casts. So it only stands to reason that they should tackle a gigantic movie... for instance, Paul Thomas Anderson's 1999 ensemble drama *Magnolia*.

We think Citadel leading man John Ulyatt would be the perfect person to step into Tom Cruise's shoes as misogynist self-help guru Frank T.J. Mackey; we'd cast Jan Alexandra Smith as Julianne Moore's pill-popping grieving wife, and Tom Wood as Philip Baker Hall's dying game-show host. And if anybody can recreate *Magnolia*'s climactic frogstorm onstage, it's ace designer Brett Gerecke. Come on, Bob Baker: this is Sterling bait if ever we've seen it!

## THEATRE NETWORK

Theatre Network has made a point in the last few years of staging female-friendly plays like *Marion Bridge*, *Perfect Pie*, and *A Beautiful View*, but sweaty, edgy dramas (often with a homosexual edge) like *True West*, *Hosanna*, *High Life*, *A Skull in Connemara*, and *Piledriver!* have been their bread and butter.

So how about converting the Roxy to a Brooklyn bank for a stage version of Sidney Lumet's 1975 botched-heist classic *Dog Day Afternoon*? We see Steve Pirot in the Al Pacino role of Sonny Wortzik and James Hamilton could grow his hair long to play his sidekick Sal, played onscreen by John Cazale. And as Sonny's soulful transsexual lover? Do we even have to tell you that Darrin Hagen would be a natural?



Atta! Atta! Atta! | Could Steve Pirot step into Al Pacino's shoes for an Edmonton version of *Dog Day Afternoon*? PHOTO SUPPLIED

## WORKSHOP WEST

Hmm. This is tricky—with only a couple of productions under his belt, new artistic director Michael Clark hasn't had the chance to establish a clear new identity for the company yet. But if you're looking for a cross between the two shows he did last year (the beatnik drug-addict one-man show *Stuck* and the alcoholic family comedy *The Mighty Carlins*), you could do worse than *Barfly*, the booze-sodden 1987 Mickey Rourke vehicle, featuring an autobiographical script by Charles Bukowski. We see Frank Zottner and Linda Grass as the two dipsomaniac lovebirds.

## NORTHERN LIGHT THEATRE

This is an easy one. Trevor Schmidt loves intense chamber psychodramas about female relationships (almost every single role in NLT's 2008-2009 season is female), and movies about women don't get more intense or psychodramatic than Ingmar Bergman's 1973 masterpiece *Cries and Whispers*. He could pretty much have his pick of local actresses for this one, but we think Annette Loiselle would be a great Harriet Andersson.

genre's most iconic creations. But not every horror tale is well-suited to artistic director Jonathan Christensen's stylized musical mood pieces. A Catalyst version of *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* would be easy to imagine, for instance—but we suspect it's almost too on the nose for Christensen to be interested in it. So why not go in the opposite direction and tackle Dario Argento's garishly coloured 1977 giallo *Suspiria*? Beth Graham would be perfect in the Jessica Harper role of the beleaguered ballet student, and if Christensen can cook up a score as loud and awesome as the *Goblin* original, they might have a bloody sensation on their hands.

## SHADOW THEATRE

We've got an unconventional suggestion for Shadow Theatre—or at least a film that's a little more emotionally raw and ragged around the edges than the material they usually go for. But we'd be fascinated to see Coralie Cairns tackle the Gena Rowlands role in John Cassavetes' 1977 drama *Opening Night*, as a veteran actress confronting her fear of aging while rehearsing for her latest play.

## CATALYST THEATRE

What with *Frankenstein* and their upcoming Edgar Allan Poe biography *Nevermore*, Catalyst Theatre has been spending a lot of time putting their imprint on some of the horror

genre's most iconic creations. But not every horror tale is well-suited to artistic director Jonathan Christensen's stylized musical mood pieces. A Catalyst version of *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* would be easy to imagine, for instance—but we suspect it's almost too on the nose for Christensen to be interested in it. So why not go in the opposite direction and tackle Dario Argento's garishly coloured 1977 giallo *Suspiria*? Beth Graham would be perfect in the Jessica Harper role of the beleaguered ballet student, and if Christensen can cook up a score as loud and awesome as the *Goblin* original, they might have a bloody sensation on their hands.

*Do you have any suggestions for*

*movies that would be perfect for*

*Edmonton theatre companies to*

*stage? E-mail your ideas to*

*pmatwychuk@see.greatwest.ca,*

*and we'll print the best ones in a*

*future issue!*

## ARTS NEWS · NOTABLE HAPPENINGS FROM THE THEATRE TO THE GALLERY

### BECKETTI

#### Hey, Estragon! We Found Him!

Two cops interrogate a mysterious vagrant—only to discover that the man is actually Godot, the no-show from Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*. Rimshot! It sounds like the premise for a three-minute sketch from a 1960s Greenwich Village comedy team, but Toronto playwright Brendan Gall has spun it into a full-length play, *Alias Godot*, which kicks off *Theatre Network's 2008/2009 season* on Sept. 25. Also on tap: Judith Thompson's Iraq War play *Palace of the End* (starring Nadien Chu as Lynndie England); Hannah Moscovitch's *East Berlin*; and Darrin Hagen's *Buddy*. And Nextfest, of course!

### BIG KAHUNA!

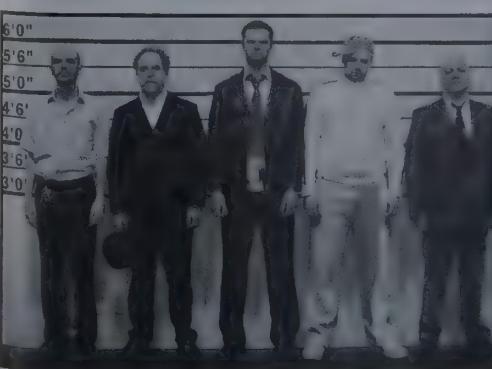
#### V Waybill

The 27th Edmonton International Fringe Theatre Festival is only a week away. And we have two things we'd like to say about that. First, theatre companies: if you haven't sent Arts News your press kits yet, you'd better get on it fast! Second, theatre audiences: if you're still dithering about which shows you want to go see, you can sample 15 of the most promising productions this Tuesday, Aug. 12 at the Varscona Theatre's *V-Gala*. Mark Meer and Kevin Gilse will be your hosts, and the likes of *Guys in Disguise*, *Rapid Fire Theatre*, and *T.J. Dawe* will be the performers. Curtain time is 8 p.m.; call 448-0695 for tickets.

### BUSRIDES!

#### A Feast For The Crap-Intolerant

"Buildings and spaces make cities great," says Adriana Davies of the Heritage Community Foundation, "and reinforce individual and community identity and pride." Well, it's not exactly "Our tolerance for crap is zero!" but Davies is certainly doing her part to call laypeople's attention to Edmonton's architectural treasures with the *Doors Open Festival* (Aug. 9-10). The main attraction will be two bus tours (one of designated heritage sites, the other of modern architectural landmarks), but there will also be poetry readings and lectures. Full info can be found at [www.doorsopenalberta.ca](http://www.doorsopenalberta.ca).



The Unusual Suspects | Do you recognize any Samuel Beckett characters among the cast of Theatre Network's *Alias Godot*?

PHOTO COURTESY OF THEATRE NETWORK

# Walking And Gawking



then showcased in the Fringe Gallery every August.

And every year, it seems as though the work is strikingly similar to last year's. Not that they're bad, mind you—it's just that they can't help but be somewhat tame, since this is a festival about selling and displaying your work to a very general public. It's not really a venue in which to make aggressive, alienating artistic statements.

**Mandy:** The Art Walk, broadly speaking, is dominated by three main themes: landscapes, abstracts (big and colourful), and paintings of Alberta animals (especially buffalo). I know that a lot of active artists have mixed feelings about participating in this kind of festival, but this year I saw a lot more "emerging" artists out on the Ave. I think that helped to up the diversity of the work shown.

**Jill:** Well, I totally agree about the emerging artists... except I think you see a lot of them every year, not just this one. Unless by "emerging artists" you mean people who have recently graduated from university with a B.F.A. or people who are still in the program, or people who are otherwise affiliated with the arts in this way. In that sense, then yes: I did notice a significant increase in the number of "trained" amateur artists taking part in the Art Walk. Which is great! This fact is reflected in the Fringe Gallery's selection of several works by recent B.F.A. grads and Grant MacEwan students.

As for the works themselves, I was particularly drawn to Jason French's work—a huge canvas with a landscape in the background and then extremely detailed foliage in the foreground. The foliage is so detailed that it becomes almost unreal—or surreal, if you will. So weird! And the back-



**The Miracle Of Leaf** | Jason French's incredibly detailed foliage stuns an Art Walk passerby. PHOTO SUPPLIED

ground—the mountains, the sky, and all of that—is so strangely painted in a flat and yet deep manner that it really makes you think and look. Twice. Or a few times. I couldn't stop looking at it!

**Mandy:** It is a pretty intense painting. There should be goats wandering around in front of it. My favorite work picked for the show has to be Murray Allen's assemblages. He collects tons of old scraps and materials, and combines them into these incredibly lively objects that are just so fantastic and unexpected. I'm really glad his work was picked to be included in the show.

**Jill:** Yeah, those assemblages were great! I also really thought the small-

er, more collage-and-or-printed-on-paper works were pretty excellent, like Jess Hogan's "I Love NYC" or Mariya Karpenko's "Power of Confusion." It's good to see how many of the "young" works like that were included, and not just the usual watercolor flowers. (Not that there's anything wrong with watercolor flowers!) I think overall, the works exhibited are works that are very Edmonton, right now. It's a collection of different artists who represent the various facets of Edmontonian amateur and semi-professional art; the landscapes, the collage, the watercolor, the student, the weekend, the animal lovers—and of course, the big, bold acrylic abstracts that we

love here so much!

**Mandy:** Ha! They are your favorite, for sure. I really hope that all the folks who were in the Art Walk and those who missed out on it will check out this exhibition. The Art Walk's definitely become more accessible to a wider variety of artists, which is such a positive development—and not just for the artists. It exposes the people who see it to a wider range of work as well, and that can only lead to good things for the community in general.

The Best of the Art Walk runs until August 30 at the Fringe Gallery (10516 Whyte Ave. under The Paint Spot)

Every year after the Whyte Avenue Art Walk, The Fringe Gallery puts on an exhibition of works from participating artists. This week, Jill and Mandy rest their tired feet and discuss *The Best of The Art Walk*.

**Mandy:** Oh, the Art Walk. She's a powerful force, there's no denying that. What did you think of the works the Fringe Gallery chose for this show?

**Jill:** Well, first, let's give some background about the Art Walk, which entered its 13th year this July. For a whole weekend, dozens of artists (more than 200 of them this year) line the streets of Whyte Avenue with their creations, hoping to make a few sales and/or make connections with other artists and patrons. It's not just art, and so the range of artworks is quite large; amateurs mingle alongside professionals, and each pays the same small fee to sit on a lawn chair and sell art with no commission. It's quite an interesting event, and one I have personally taken part in for the last five years. Every year, a committee selects a handful of works they feel either are very strong, or which represent the Art Walk in a way they deem appropriate. These works are

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David Vest & DK Stewart  
Joe Louis Walker  
Charlie Musselwhite

# EXHIBITS

ALBERTA CRAFT COUNCIL 10/86-106 ST., 488-6611 EXT. 221. Info: [www.albertacraft.ca](http://www.albertacraft.ca).

AJ OTTEWELL ARTS CENTRE 590 BROADMOOR BLVD., SHERWOOD PARK. 449-4443 Info: 922-3179.

THE ARTERY 935 JASPER AVE. Hours: Thu 5 pm, or by appointment. Info: [theartery.ca](http://theartery.ca).

ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA ENTERPRISE SQUARE, #100, 10230 JASPER AVE., 422-6221 Until Aug 10: "Red Title: First Nations Art in the Late 20th Century" & "Drawn from the Past: The Portraits and Practice of Nicholas de Grandmaison." Hours: Mon-Fri 10:30 am-5 pm; Thu 4-8 pm free admission. Sat & Sun 11 am-5 pm. Info: [www.artgalleryalberta.ca](http://www.artgalleryalberta.ca).

ARTSHAB STUDIO GALLERY 3RD FL., 1027/106 ST., 479-9532 Hours: Thu 5 pm, or by appointment. Info: [www.artshab.com](http://www.artshab.com).

BEARCLAW GALLERY 1040-124 ST., 482-1204 Info: [bearclawgallery.ca](http://bearclawgallery.ca).

BLUE CURVE GALLERY GLENROSE REHABILITATION HOSPITAL, 10230-111 AVE. Hours: Mon-Fri 8 am-2 pm.

CABINET GALLERY NUKONIKS CLOTHING, 10318-82 AVE. Info: [www.instituteteapart.ca](http://www.instituteteapart.ca).

THE CARRROT COMMUNITY ARTS COFFEE HOUSE 935-118 AVE., 477-5860 Info: [www.thecarrot.ca](http://www.thecarrot.ca).

CENTRE D'ARTS VISUELS DE L'ALBERTA 9103-95 AVE., 461-3427 Info: 461-3427.

CHRISTL BERGSTROM'S RED GALLERY 9621-82 AVE., 479-8210 "Mother and Child" by Christl Bergstrom. Hours: Mon-Fri 10 am-5 pm.

DOUGLAS UDELL GALLERY 10332-124 ST., 488-4445 Hours: Tue-Fri, 9:30 am-5:30 pm; Sat: 2-5 pm. Info: [douglasudellgallery.com](http://douglasudellgallery.com).

ELCTRUM DESIGN STUDIO 12419 STONY PLAIN RD., 482-1402 New works from various artists. Info: [www.wagymackenzielodsmith.com](http://www.wagymackenzielodsmith.com).

EXTENSION CENTRE GALLERY MAIN FLOOR ATRIUM, ENTERPRISE SQUARE, 10230 JASPER AVE. Hours: Daily 7 am-11 pm. Info: [www.extension.alberta.ca](http://www.extension.alberta.ca).

FAG GALLERY 117-118 ARTS BUILDING, U OF A CAMPUS Hours: Tues-Fri, 10 am-5 pm; Sat: 2-5 pm.

FRINGE GALLERY 1055 WHYTE AVE., 432-0240 Info: [www.paintspot.ca](http://www.paintspot.ca).

FRONT GALLERY 1232 JASPER AVE., 488-2952 Info: 488-2952.

GALLERY AT MILNER STANLEY A. MILNER LIBRARY, #7 CHURCHILL SQUARE Info: 496-7030.

HARCOURT HOUSE GALLERY 3RD FL., 10215-112 ST., 426-4800 Info: [www.harcourthouse.ab.ca](http://www.harcourthouse.ab.ca).

JEFF ALLEN GALLERY STRATHCONA SENIORS CENTRE, 10631 UNIVERSITY AVE., 433-0570 Hours: Mon-Thu, 9 am-4 pm.

JOHNSON GALLERY 771-85 ST., 465-6711 Edmonton oil painters working in studio throughout the season. Featured artists include Susan Abma, Susan Box, Shari Honey, and

David Brooks, Margaret Klapstein, Tracy Mardon, Anne McCormick, and Cindy Revell. Info: [susanaabma.com](http://susanaabma.com).

LANDO GALLERY 1180-103 AVE., 990-161 Hours: Mon-Fri, 10 am-5 pm; Sat, 10 am-4 pm. Info: [www.landogallery.com](http://www.landogallery.com).

LATITUDE 53 10248-107 ST., 423-5353 Hours: Tue-Fri, 10 am-6 pm; Sat, 12-5 pm. Info: [www.latitude53.org](http://www.latitude53.org).

MACEWAN CENTRE FOR THE ARTS 10405-156 ST. Hours: Mon-Fri, 10 am-6 pm; Sat, Sun, 12-5 pm.

MANDOLIN BOOKS 6419-112 AVE., 479-4050

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MINA HAGGERTY CENTRE 9704-111 AVE., 476-7611 Studio hours: Mon-Fri, 10 am-5 pm. Gallery hours: Mon/Wed/Fri, 9:30 am-7 pm; Tue/Thu, 9:30 am-6 pm & 6-8 pm. Info: [www.ninahaggerty.ca](http://www.ninahaggerty.ca).

NORTH EDMONTON SCULPTURE WORKSHOP 10566-115 ST., 482-2685 Days/Evening viewing by appointment: 482-2685.

OUT OF THE FIRE STUDIO 12214 JASPER AVE., 378-0240 Info: [www.outofthefirestudio.com](http://www.outofthefirestudio.com).

PETER ROBERTSON GALLERY 10180-112 ST., 455-2479 Hours: Tue-Sat 11 am-5:30 pm. Info: [www.probertsgallery.com](http://www.probertsgallery.com).

PICTURE THIS GALLERY 959 0RDO RD. SHERWOOD PARK, 467-3038 Info: [www.picturethisgallery.com](http://www.picturethisgallery.com).

PLANET ZE DESIGN CENTRE 10055-80 AVE., 428-3499 Ongoing displays include functional sculpture and jewelry by Sandra Sing Fernando, metal sculpture by Linda Maines and Bianca Khan, and paintings by Quentin Maki and Tim Rechner. Info: [www.planetz.com](http://www.planetz.com).

PORTAL GALLERY #300, 944-91 ST., 702-7522 Until Sep 12: Marce Roth Reception Aug 12, 7 pm-10 pm. Hours: Tue-Fri, 12-6 pm; Sat, 12-7 pm. Info: [www.theportalgallery.com](http://www.theportalgallery.com).

PROFILES PUBLIC ART GALLERY 19 PERRON ST., ST. ALBERT, 460-4310

ROWLES & CO. LTD., MEZZANINE LEVEL, 10103-103 ST., 426-4035 Info: [www.rowles.ca](http://www.rowles.ca).

SCOTT GALLERY 1041-124 ST., 488-3619 Hours: Tue-Sat 10 am-5 pm. Info: [www.scottgallery.com](http://www.scottgallery.com).

SCULPTURE STUDIO & GALLERY SHERWOOD PARK, 662-4160 Figurative and abstract sculpture by Horst II. Info: [www.horst-sculpture.ca](http://www.horst-sculpture.ca).

SELFRISE POTTERY STUDIO 9844-88 AVE., 439-9296 Hours: 11 am-5 pm. Info: [www.selfridgeramicart.ca](http://www.selfridgeramicart.ca).

SNAP GALLERY SOCIETY OF NORTHERN ALBERTA PRINT ARTISTS 10309-91 ST., 423-1492 Hours: Tue-Sat 12-5 pm. Info: [snap.snapartists.com](http://snap.snapartists.com).

STUDIO GALLERY 11 PERRON ST., ST. ALBERT, 460-5993 Hours: Thu, 12-8 pm; Fri, 10 am-6 pm; Sat, 10 am-5 pm.

TU GALLERY 1078-124 ST., 452-9662 Info: [www.tugallery.ca](http://www.tugallery.ca).

URBAN ROOTS 10418-82 AVE., 438-7978 Hours: Wed-Sat, 12-4 pm. Info: 438-7978.

VAAA GALLERI VISUAL ARTS ALBERTA ASSOCIATION 3RD FL., 10215-112 ST., 421-1711 Hours: Mon-Fri, 10-4 pm; Sat,

Sun, 10-4 pm.

WEST END GALLERY 1210 JASPER AVE., 488-4992 Hours: Tue-Sat, 11 am-5 pm. Info: [www.westendgallerycd.com](http://www.westendgallerycd.com).

WUNDERHOF HOFRAUHAUS 10195 WHYTE AVENUE Hours: Tue-Fri, 6pm-3am; Sat-Sun, 3pm-3am

WORKS GALLERY #202, 10225-100 AVE., 426-2122 Hours: Mon-Fri, noon-5 pm. Info: [www.theworks.ca](http://www.theworks.ca).

ZIEGLER HUGHES GALLERY & SCREENDIPTY FRAMING 9860-90 AVE., 431-0888 Aranacalli Mexican jewelry and artworks by Canadian and Mexican artists. Hours: Tue-Wed, 10am-6pm; Thu-Fri, 10 am-8 pm; Sat, noon-8 pm; Sun-Mon, noon 5 pm.

ZOCALO 1086-95 ST., 428-0754 International crafts, artwork, and tropical flowers. Hours: Mon-Wed, 10 am-6 pm; Thu, 10 am-9 pm; Sat, 9am-5pm; Sun, noon-5 pm.

**MUSEUMS**

ALBERTA AVIATION MUSEUM 11407 KINGWAY AVE., 451-175 Edmonton bush pilot display in WWII-era double-wide, double-long hanger. Hours: Daily, 10am-4 pm.

CANADIAN PETROLEUM DISCOVERY CENTRE LEDUC DISCOVERY WELL LEDUC Guided tours, tailoring education programs for classes K-12, safety courses and industry training, campground library, and historical archives. Info: 1-866-987-4323 [www.cpcit.org](http://www.cpcit.org).

CITY OF EDMONTON ARCHIVES 10440-108 AVE., 496-8710 Over 50,000 catalogued photographs and slides from the 1880s to the present. Free admission. Hours: Mon-Fri, 8:30am-4:30 pm.

JOHN WALTER MUSEUM 10661-91 AVE., 496-8787 Free admission donations gladly accepted. Info: [edmonton.ca/johnwalters](http://edmonton.ca/johnwalters).

LOYAL EDMONTON REGIMENT MILITARY MUSEUM #18, PRINCE OF WALES ARMOURIES HERITAGE CENTRE, 10410-108 AVE. Hours: Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm.

MUSEE HERITAGE #1 ST. ANNE ST., ST. ALBERT, 459-1528 Hours: Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm; Sun, 1-5pm. Admission by donation, suggested donation \$2.

PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF ALBERTA 8555 ROPER RD., 427-1750 Until Sep 6: "Les Francophones in Alberta: Courage et Determination" tells the history of Francophones in Alberta through archival records. Hours: Tue-Sat, 9am-4:30pm; Wed, 9am-9pm.

ROYAL ALBERTA MUSEUM 12845-102 AVE., 433-9100 Hours: Mon-Sun, 9am-5pm. Info: [www.royalalbertamuseum.ca](http://www.royalalbertamuseum.ca).

STRATHCONA COUNTY MUSEUM & ARCHIVES 913 ASH ST., SHERWOOD PARK, 476-8198 Hours: Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm. Info: [www.strathconacounty.museum.ca](http://www.strathconacounty.museum.ca).

TELUS WORLD OF SCIENCE 10717-147 ST., 451-3344 Permanent exhibits include The Body Fantastic, Mystery Avenue, The Green's House, Space, Discoveryland, and DinoDen in the Explorer Gallery. Info: 451-3344 [www.odyssey.ca](http://www.odyssey.ca).

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ACADEMY, 10564 JASPER AVE., 709-3500 A free performance of Capoeira, a Brazilian mix of dance, martial arts and music invented by African slaves. Info: [www.capecoiedmonton.ca](http://www.capecoiedmonton.ca).

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## HIGHLIGHT • DRAG!

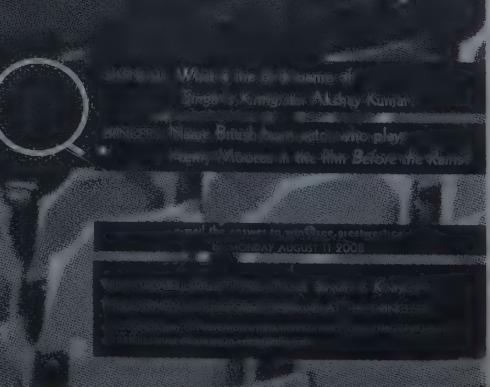


Private Tutors | Nick Green, Trevor Schmidt, and a mustachioed Marlyn Ryan star in 7 Queens and a Joker. PHOTO BY IAN JALKSON/EPIC PHOTOGRAPHY

### 2 Queens And A Joker

The Big Kahuna—aka the 27th Edmonton International Fringe Theatre Festival—begins next Thursday, and if there's such a thing as The Big Kahuna of The Big Kahuna, it's arguably Darin Hagen and his theatre company Guys in Disguise, who over the last two decades have consistently staged some of the most ambitious and inventive drag theatre in the country. They've got three (!) shows at this year's Fringe: *Our Roots Are Showing* (an old-school cabaret featuring three of Western Canada's greatest queens); *Coffee Dad, Chicken Mom, And The Fabulous Buddha Boy* (a fun new play by local actor Nick Green and starring Trevor Schmidt); and *2 Queens And A Joker* (a cross-dressing historical epic about Mary Queen of Scots, Elizabeth I, and the clever messenger who acts as their go-between).

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The Octopus Project | August 22, Velvet Underground. PHOTO SUPPLIED

## COMING

AUG 7-10 - EDMONTON FOLK FESTIVAL Gallagher Park

AUG 8 - BLACK FRANCIS Starlite Room

AUG 12 - NEWTON FAULKNER Velvet Underground

AUG 12 - TOM PETTY & THE HEARTBREAKERS, STEVE WINWOOD Rexall Place

AUG 13 - MOTLEY CRUE, PAPA ROACH, BUCKCHERRY Rexall Place

AUG 17 - GERRY AND THE PACEMAKERS Century Casino

AUG 21 - JAY LENO River City Casino

AUG 22 - OCTOPUS PROJECT Velvet Underground

AUG 24 - 3 DOORS DOWN, HINDER, STAND! Rexall Place

AUG 29 - AIRBOURNE Edmonton Event Centre

AUG 29 - QASIS, RYAN ADAMS Rexall Place

AUG 31 - BACKSTREET BOYS Rexall Place

SEP 2 - LEW SCRATCH PERRY Urban Lounge

SEP 3 - ANTIFLAG, CREEPSHOW Starlite Room

SEP 4 - LEE SCRATCH PERRY Urban Lounge

SEP 4 - FINTROLL Starlite Room

SEP 5 - ALL AMERICAN REJECTS, FABER DRIVE, SIMPLE PLAN Rexall Place

SEP 6 - R.D.A., RANCID, WEDNESDAY NIGHT HEROES Show Conference Centre

SEP 9 - BLOC PARTY, FOALS Edmonton Event Centre

SEP 9 - SANTANA Rexall Place

SEP 10 - TV ON THE RADIO Starlite Room

SEP 12 - AGAIN ME! JAPANTHIR, ST. ALVIA CARTEL Edmonton Event Centre

SEP 13 - ELTON JOHN Rexall Place

SEP 14 - DAVE STEWART Winspear Centre

SEP 16 - NEIL DIAMOND Rexall Place

SEP 21 - BONNIE TYLER Festival Place

SEP 27 - ALICE COOPER Jubilee Auditorium

SEP 27 - KELLY CLARKSON, REBA MCENTIRE Rexall Place

OCT 2 - SHERYL CROW, JIM CLOUD Festival Place

agenda | news&opinion | city life | music | on screen | arts | classifieds | sex | the back

# Naked Poker With My Sister-In-Law



MY MESSY BEDROOM JOSEY VOGELS  
**DO YOU THINK IF WE HAVE  
 SEX, I'LL FINALLY GET MY  
 ATTRACTION TO MY WIFE'S  
 SISTER OUT OF MY SYSTEM?**

Dear Josey,

I hope you won't judge me after reading this letter. I am a 35-year-old man, happily married with two kids. I love my wife and she loves me, yet I find myself sexually attracted to her sister. Her sister and I love to talk dirty to each other. It is just a game and we never cross the line. But things started getting out of hand when she stripped for me as part of a private poker game (all in fun and again, nothing more happened).

I am not sure how my sister-in-law feels, but I dream of her every day and think of how great the sex would be. I do not want a relationship, but I want to get it out of my system. Don't tell me I am sick

or a pervert. I know if we have sex once, it will be the last time, but on the other hand it may not be. What do I do?

In Lust With My Sister-In-Law

Dear In Lust.

Oh, brother-in-law! The fact that you ask me not to judge you or call you sick or a pervert tells me you're feeling a little guilty. So I don't have to judge you—you're doing the job for me. And I hate to break it to you, guy, but talking dirty and stripping naked for someone is "something." So don't

stand, honey... you had to get it out of your system!"

C'mon, guy, you're playing with fire. Of course, you can't stop thinking about having sex with this woman. It's like smelling french fries. Even if you're not hungry, you want them. And, as you say, rather than stopping at one taste, you might keep eating until you finish the whole plate. Cool your jets, tell your sister-in-law to cool hers and go figure out why you're not satisfied with your wife's french fries.

Dear Bed,

How do you know if he is just using you for sex?

Hmm... that's a toughie, given how completely obvious it is, but let me see. I'd say the odds of you having the makings of a deep, meaningful long term relationship are, well, a little slim. That doesn't mean he doesn't care for you and you for him, but call me crazy—I think at least some part of dating should occur vertically, possibly even in public.

Of course, it could be that he only knows how to express intimacy

Dear Josey,

I have a problem that has caused me to lose several potential relationships. Whenever I meet a guy and it seems obvious we both want to get to know each other more, I end up giving him the wrong signals and he thinks all I want is a one-night stand. I don't know what I do wrong, but any tips would help.

One-Night Wonder

Dear One-Night,

Maybe you need to take the "Breakfast Not Included" sign down from over your bed...

I mean, really—what signals are you giving him? Are you one of those people who get freaked out the next morning and suddenly "have to be somewhere"? Do you hand out condoms at the bar?

Look: if you don't want it to be a one-night stand, don't sleep with him on the first night. If he still wants to see you again, he's obviously interested in more than one night. A second nifty tip you might want to try: tell him you're not interested in a one-night thing. It's direct and honest. I know, a strange concept for most of us, but amazingly effective. Try it; you might like it.

## I HATE TO BREAK IT TO YOU, GUY, BUT TALKING DIRTY AND STRIPPING NAKED FOR SOMEONE IS "SOMETHING." SO DON'T TELL ME NOTHING'S HAPPENED.

tell me nothing's happened.

I don't know what kind of relationship you have with your sister-in-law, but I hardly ever get naked with my brothers-in-law. As far as I'm concerned, you have crossed the line. I can only guess that your wife and her sister aren't exactly tight for her to do this type of thing. I love the part about you thinking you can get it out of your system by sleeping with her. Like what's a flu bug or something. And what do you think your wife will say? (And she will find out.) "Oh, I under-

Dear Josey,

I met this guy in January and we spend a fair amount of time together (we talk on the phone nearly every day, so clearly he likes my company, right?), but we never seem to do anything except end up in bed together. Sometimes, he'll rent a movie and bring it over, and very occasionally, we'll grab a bite to eat, but it hardly feels like dating. How do I know if he is just using me for sex?

Bed Ridden

through sex and may not be capable of expressing his deep love for you any other way, but I suspect this will wear thin after a while. In the end, I don't think your question should be whether he is just using you for sex, but "Can I continue to be involved in a relationship that is based on physical intimacy as opposed to emotional intimacy?" If you can't, you need to get him out of bed and into a chair where you can talk to him about it.

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# My Gay Cousin's Marrying A Girl! Uh... Hooray?



SAVAGE LOVE DAN SAVAGE  
COULD HE HAVE HONESTLY  
DECIDED TO START PLAYING  
FOR A DIFFERENT TEAM, OR  
SHOULD I INTERVENE?

I have a cousin with whom I am very close. He recently proposed to his girlfriend. I have several issues with this, but the most important one is the fact that *everyone* who meets this young man thinks he's gay. (I don't know how the girlfriend hasn't seen it.) When I told my friends he was engaged, their jaws dropped. Everyone said, "But he's gay!" He's admitted to me that he did "play for the other team" in college and every once in a while he mentions that he has a "man crush" on so-and-so. I've been out with him, and gay men will comment on how handsome he is, how they're sure he's gay, etc. I love him to death and I don't care one bit that he may be gay.

I'm curious what you think. Was "playing for the other team" just a phase? I don't think so. Unfortunately, I think he's just trying to "fit in." My brother and I think he will end up getting divorced or be completely miserable for the rest of his life. This is his first serious girlfriend and the first girl he's lived with. Should I take my boyfriend's advice and just butt out? Thanks.

A Concerned Cousin

Yes, yes: But the fuck out—right after you speak your piece to your cousin, and right after you've slipped his fiancée the URL for the Straight Spouse Network's website ([www.straightspouse.org](http://www.straightspouse.org)) and copies of former New Jersey governor Jim "I'm a Batshitcrazy Gay American" McGreevey and his ex-wife's dueling memoirs.

As for "playing for the other team" at college, ACK, that can indeed be just a phase—but for women, not men. Heterosexual and homosexual women, if legit scientific research is to be believed, "tend to become sexually aroused by both male and female erotica, and, thus, have a bisexual arousal pattern," according to the results of 2003 study conducted at LUG-infested Northwestern University. Men, on the other hand, prefer erotica that plays exclusively to their professed sexual orientation. Which means, of course, that female sexu-

ality is a fluid and male sexuality is solid. Or something.

And ladies? Pointing out your fluid sexuality isn't an insult. It's a compliment—hell, it's a freakin' superpower.

As for the girlfriend's inability to "see it," there's always a chance that she has seen it, ACK, really seen it. We do have to entertain the possibility that the girlfriend has seen her fiancé, your cousin, with a cock in his mouth and dug it. There's a chance she could be one of those women who likes gay porn so much that marrying a mostly gay or even an entirely gay person represents the fulfillment of a dream.

Oh, and speaking of the mostly gays...

Researchers at the University of Texas Medical School at Houston claim to have found the "Achilles' heel" of the virus that causes AIDS. Their discovery could lead to new and more effective drugs and treatments.

Or, you know, not.

We've been down this road before—HIV's Achilles' heel located, targeted, hopes raised, and then... it's back to the ol' drawing board. So let's not run out and stick our asses in the air just yet, boys. And remember: Even if we do one day have a vaccine or a cure for HIV, re-creating the gay communal-sewer sex culture of the 1970s is a Very Bad Idea. One important takeaway lesson—one of the top lessons—of the AIDS epidemic should be this: Given the right conditions, new sexually transmitted infections can emerge and kill you and all your friends.

Remember, kids: Straight people should have more sex (and more sex partners) than they do; gay people should have less sex (and fewer sex partners) than we can. Balance, balance, balance—oh, and anal sex is not a first-date activity: use condoms for anal sex with casual partners to protect yourself from HIV and other

STIs, known and unknown, and lower your inhibitions the old-fashioned way (therapy and beer) and stay the fuck away from meth and meth users.

I put a profile on an online dating site some time ago when my job moved me to Florida and I didn't know anybody down here, but I soon forgot about it. Recently, a girl contacted me via that old personal ad, we exchanged pictures, and she told me she was overweight. In the pictures she didn't look that big and I chalked her comments up to female insecurity. Less than an hour ago we met for the first time and she was huge. I told her as politely as possible that I felt her pictures were misleading, that she was bigger than I expected, and that I didn't think it would work. I felt (and still feel) like total shit.

Dan, help me. Am I a bad person for this? I want to go slam my head in a car door!

*Fretting About Traumatic Situation Obsessively*

Sending out misleading photos is a no-no, FATSO, precisely because it leads to hurt feelings on all sides. Misleading photos are unfair to the person misled—it places the person in an awkward position—and sets the sender up for emotionally devastating rejections.

So long as you were polite and direct—and I'm taking your word for that, FATSO—you're not a bad person even if her feelings were hurt. There are men out there who are open to big women or into big women—the bigger the better—and she can avoid hurt feelings in the future by e-mailing accurate photos and attracting the attention of men who actually find her attractive.

A Note to My Readers: Half the mail at Savage Love HQ now arrives

with qualifiers like this one: "I'd appreciate receiving your advice via e-mail. Please do not print this in your column. Thanks."

The person who wrote the above at least had the decency to include it in the start of his letter (and the indecency to use an emoticon). It's extremely annoying to read a long, involved letter about a fucked-up, complicated problem and—after composing a little advice in my head, or looking up some stuff or sending a query to the appropriate expert—stumble across a "don't print this!" in a P.S.

I don't mean to be bitchy (that comes naturally), and I frequently write folks back who ask for a little private advice, but come on, people. I'm an advice columnist, not a therapist in private practice. My e-mail address is at the bottom of the column to solicit questions for future columns, not because I need something to do in my nonexistent free time.

Sometimes I do feel an urge to offer advice to fuck-ups with messy personal lives outside of the context of the column or the podcast. But that's what family reunions are for. But what the hell.

Confidential to Rick in Austin:

It is indeed rare for two men to meet and fall in love while each is banging half of a pair of male twins. (Or were you sleeping with two different pairs of twins who shared an apartment when you took that fateful trip to the bathroom? It's unclear from your letter.) And, no, having a Hare Krishna brother shouldn't impact your love life, karma-wise, any more than having an English professor brother has impacted mine, classics-of-American-literature-wise. You're welcome.

Download the *Savage Lovecast* (my weekly podcast) every Tuesday at [www.thestranger.com/savage](http://www.thestranger.com/savage) mail@savagelove.net

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## CRUISIN' THE COSMOS

### PISCES (FEBRUARY 19 – MARCH 20)

As much as your emotions can lead you to bliss, they can also be one of your weaknesses. When you don't let them dictate your behaviour, clarity of thought'll be your saviour. This week, if you play the game and are emotionally detached, you'll easily win 'cause your moves can't be matched!

### ARIES (MARCH 21 – APRIL 19)

It ain't time to be sheepish 'cause you ain't a lamb, it's time for you to be Aries the ram. You got them big ol' curly horns on your head, so use 'em to instill in your opponents some dread. This week, don't take nothin' from no one in terms of guff, even if it means usin' your horns to get tough!

### TAURUS (APRIL 20 – MAY 20)

You've been pretty dang virtuous the past li'l while and you've been playin' the game in good-karma style, so it's time for the cosmos to send you a smile. Trouble is lately you've been so undermandin', what you really desire, it ain't quite understandin'. This week, give the cosmos an easier task – if there's somethin' that you really want, ask!

### GEMINI (MAY 21 – JUNE 20)

The reason there's diplomacy in the first place is 'cause people in power know that fightin' uses up natural resources and you can have a hard time overcomin' the costs incurred in order to win. This week, war is something you might wanna declare 'cause it'll make things more fair, but you'll end up much better off if you don't go there!

### CANCER (JUNE 21 – JULY 22)

"C" is for cookie but it also stands for Cancer, cautious, careful and considerate. Of course, "C" is a pretty popular letter of the alphabet, so you can't forget about crazy, callous and conceited. Especially this week, when you find those qualities are desperately needed!

### LEO (JULY 23 – AUGUST 22)

This week, the full moon signifies the time the fur'll fly, it's like every foey you have'll attack you this week but, lucky for you, your strength's at a peak. That's why no matter what happens, there's no need to sweat it – any suckers who step are sure gonna get it!

### VIRGO (AUGUST 23 – SEPTEMBER 22)

Cosmically speakin', this week is gonna be kinda like a candy commercial. You'll be walkin' down the street mindin' your own biz when you bump into someone else, whose chocolate gets in your peanut butter. Now that you've discovered a great new taste, don't ignore your discovery and let it go to waste!

### LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 23 – OCTOBER 22)

You may not like to unload your problems on your family and friends but that behaviour must come to an end. Right now you're full of mental pollution and an external opinion'll help you find a solution. This week, don't be stopped by your pride, ask for some help from the outside!

### SCORPIO (OCTOBER 23 – NOVEMBER 21)

No matter how difficult the trouble you're facin', the Scorpio sign's all about regeneration. Like a lizard, you can lop off a limb, and, in not too much time, a new one'll grow in. Don't worry this week about chewin' off your arm, leavin' it in the trap'll do you way more harm!

### SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 22 – DECEMBER 21)

Although you just finished something, you can't sit still, 'cause if there's one thing Sagittarians seek, it's the next thrill. Of course, that means you can't rest on your laurels, even if it means causin' discord 'n' quarrels. This week, whatever you do, treat yourself to something new!

### CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 22 – JANUARY 19)

Right now, if you take the first opportunity to get out of a jam, you'll find it's a scam and you'll just end up in a jelly that's even more smelly. Instead of doin' something so dumb, wait 'till after the weekend when a real solution'll come. This week, it's much better to be picky than to wind up all sticky!

### AQUARIUS (JANUARY 20 – FEBRUARY 18)

Sometimes it's good to put your nose into other folks' biz 'cause that's exactly how an activist is. When someone's messin' things up 'cause their thinkin' ain't clear, that's when it's time for you to interfere. This week, you'll be rewarded for every transgression that you have thwarted!

You can contact The Kid at [cruisinthecosmos@hotmail.com](mailto:cruisinthecosmos@hotmail.com).

### 195. Personals

#### Eight Minute Date

Speed Date Sat Aug 16 at The Rednex Bar & Grill (Morinville)

Ages: 20-32, 34-45 & 46-57

Register at 780-457-8535 or [www.eightminutedate.ca](http://www.eightminutedate.ca)

### 200. Business/Invest. Opp.

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ATTN: LOCAL PEOPLE needed to work from home online. \$500-\$4500 PT/FT. Call Shelley (780) 463-7778.

#### Community Coordinator

Edmonton Food Security Network seeking enthusiastic self-starter to help achieve our mandate.

20 hrs/week \$20,000 salary

Please contact Hani for full job posting. 780.944.7591 or [hani.qun@edmonton.ca](mailto:hani.qun@edmonton.ca)

New website needs people with marketing/programming/database management skills. Profit sharing potential. Contact [shopmonster@shaw.ca](mailto:shopmonster@shaw.ca)

### 1005. Help Wanted

PUB MANAGER  
Experienced Manager required for neighborhood pub in Strathcona.

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The Arbour Restaurant In Rutherford House seeks Cook/Manager.

Full-time position, daytime hours only.

Send resume and cover letter to [info@rutherfordhouse.ca](mailto:info@rutherfordhouse.ca) or (780) 422-4288.

### 1500. Help Wanted - Alta.

A PHONE DISCONNECTED? Great hookup rates. Everyone approved. Not happy with present phone provider. Switch for free, keep same number. Call today! Protel. Reconnect 1-877-852-1122.

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TRUCK DRIVERS WITH Class 1 and 3 with air wanted for Fort Nelson, BC. Fax resume with current driver's abstract to 250-774-8248 or email: deb\_cornish@northwestern.net.

### 1600. Volunteers Wanted

15-25? - want to change the world? The Edmonton Red Cross Humanitarian Issues Program (HIP) wants you to help stop cluster bombs, help refugees, feed the poor? We are looking for young people who want to make a difference! Contact Laura or Justinfat 423-2680

Brain Neurobiology Research Program at UofA is seeking MAJOR DEPRESSION sufferers who are interested in participating in a research study. Please call 780-407-3906

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Get involved in World Orphan Week and help organize Children World Wide. www.worldorphanweek.ca

Healthy volunteers required for studies with the Brain Neurobiology Research at UofA 780-407-3906. Reimbursement provided.

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Volunteer for the weekend to end breast cancer. Call 780-424-9255

## 1600. Volunteers Wanted

The Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton requires crisis line volunteers. Call/email Erin, 780-423-4102, erinn@safe.ca

The Support Network needs case volunteers for either August 20 or 21. Meals provided. Apply at www.thesupportnetwork.com or call 732-6648

YOU CAN Edmonton is sending 10 volunteers to Northern Ireland. Visit www.youcan.ca. Dealing with Difference project

### 2005. Artist to Artist

EDMONTON FASHION WEEK Are you a designer looking for models, or a model looking to work with runway? Planet Zee Design Centre is holding Go-See's for FW 05/06 in August 20th from 6-8:00 am-8:00 pm. Fashion Week runs September 4-12. Call 780-964-1000 for more info or go to www.edmontontfashionweek.com

Nature Photographer looking for sketch artist using either pencil, chalk or coal to duplicate my photo. Please contact artist at 780-757-6954 or chrisgavan@hotmail.com. All inquiries welcome.

Photographer looking for models. Attractive, outgoing females wanted for serious 2009 calendar project. No experience necessary. Contact (780) 604-5621

### 2010. Musicians Available

Females single looking for a band. I enjoy all genres except jazz and metal. My voice lends itself to soul, R&B, blues, etc. I am new to this, but am willing to try almost anything oneself! (Have competed in several singing competitions including Country Vocal Spotlight, making it to the semi-finals) Email: c\_desrance@hot-mail.com, PC: 780-454-0968.

### 2020. Musicians Wanted

A Lead Bass Player and Riff Oriented Guitarist are needed for Ormus. Must be Creative, Positive, and Professional. Prefer ages 25 to 35. No hard drug users or ego maniacs please. PH: 780-265-0282 or www.myphs.com/ourmusicks

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EDMONTON PUNK/METAL band

All Else Fools looking to collaborate with artists for upcoming release. You provide synth/classical talent, we provide pro software. Please email band@allelfools.ca

EDMONTON PUNK/METAL band

All Else Fools seeking Bass player. Vocals & strong stage presence a must! Please email band@allelfools.ca

Female or male singer wanted. Samples at myspace.com/darkwarriorhills. Ph: 780-990-2866. 18+

Female singer wanted. Samples at myspace.com/darkwarriorhills. Ph: 780-990-2866. 18+

Guitarist/Vocalist wanted to accompany bass player for original electric folk rock project. Females welcome. Call 780-265-2552.

INDIE ROCK/Alternative band

seeks vocalists ages 16-19. Wide variety of influences and musical tastes.

We have a full PA and are in contact with many major industry professionals. Contact Matt. 780-604-4199

King Ring Nancy looking for a drummer. Contact Kevin at 780-642-2606.

LOCAL cover band looking for guitarist for rehearsals and gigs. Info: lightwakr@hubub.org

Peace to all

Volunteer for the weekend to end breast cancer. Call 780-424-9255

PROTECH TUBA - 2008 Model, six

person, 33 jets, 9 HP, waterfull,

LED lighting/ozone (exclusive

chemical free/fully insulated/

complete warranty and 5 year

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Clean city rated - gravel.

780-307-4656.

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403-226-1722; 403-540-4164;

1-866-517-8335. www.magnates-

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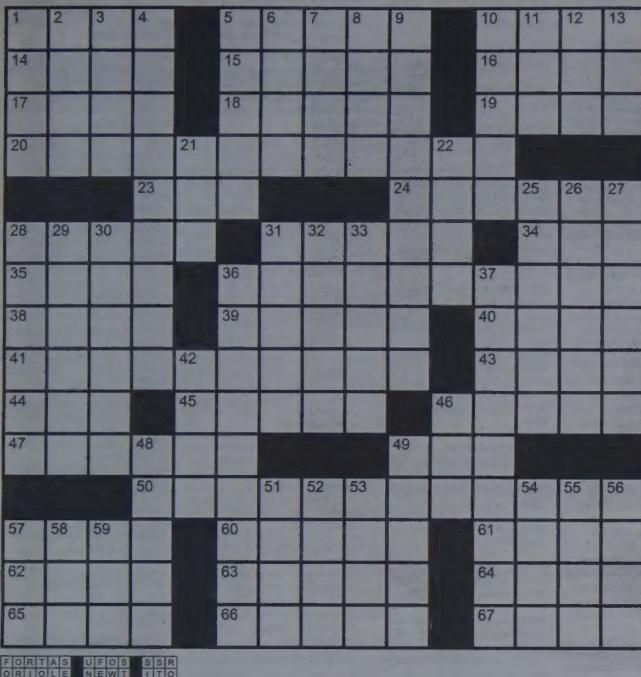
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 COOP CIRCLES ITD  
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 LOSEH HPE SIMARKS  
 EYE MEEDO  
 READOS ALTARBOG  
 OAT ROYGBIV ELLI  
 BRAVEA INISSAN  
 GONE TIE  
 SOLDTOO DOOR JAMI  
 NCAAM MEH OODOR  
 EON MADAME CURVE  
 AMC EVEL BTRAIN  
 DEE TEXIT BUNGEES

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

## ACROSS

1 Part of FCC: abbr.  
 5 Fig tree  
 10 "Divine Secrets of the \_\_\_ Sisterhood" (2002 movie)  
 14 About 2.6 times the square of the length of one side, for a regular hexagon  
 15 Sumname associated with pricey Italian violins  
 16 Second word of many fairy tales  
 17 Fringe benefit  
 18 Word after word or taco  
 19 Euro division  
 20 It doesn't portray a big win nearly as well when it's regular-sized  
 23 Song on the "Mamma Mia!" soundtrack  
 24 Things are easier to understand on his terms  
 28 Jury members  
 31 Where all addresses include @  
 34 Prefix before duct  
 35 "Step \_\_\_ pets" (animal-friendly palindrome)  
 36 They're just not funny when regular-sized  
 38 Hexadeca-, halved  
 39 O'Connor who played Gabrielle on "Xena: Warrior Princess"  
 40 Richards and Radcliffe, for two  
 41 It doesn't show nearly as much team spirit when regular-sized  
 43 Company whose mascot is Sonic the Hedgehog  
 44 "Mentalist" Geller  
 45 Self-evaluating question for the self-help crowd  
 46 Heavily stocked, as a ship  
 47 Speaker of the House Nancy  
 49 Provided the grub

## SIZE MATTERS

IT'S GOTTA BE RIDICULOUSLY BIG

JONESIN' CROSSWORD BY MATT JONES

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50 It doesn't convey ferocious fuel-burning action, action, action! when it's regular-sized

57 Coffee

60 1993 movie involving a plane crash

61 It may have steam settings

62 Company that markets Anew

63 Paramount

64 "The Godfather" film composer Rota

65 Pad variety

66 Keep, as in an MP3 player

67 "The Simpsons" newscaster Brockman

## Gage

32 Dimwitted "Blazing Saddles" character who was "only pawn in game of life"

33 "Eight Days..."

36 They get specialized lawyers

37 Enjoys the open bar

42 Burkina \_\_\_ (Ouagadougou's country)

46 "... me paint you a picture"

48 Masqat resident

49 Jacques, for one

51 Mailbox alternative

52 DVR brand introduced in 1998

53 Second-to-last word of many fairy tales

54 Actor Michael of "Ugly Betty"

55 U \_\_\_ (2004 NCAA Men's Division I basketball champs, for short)

56 Shoelace snarl

57 Freestyle music session

58 Frank Sinatra ex Gardner

59 Bono \_\_\_ (Bono's nickname, in the early

1980s)

1 Crunch's rank

2 Cakesters cookie

3 Griffin who died shortly before his crossword game show debuted

4 Clears out a space

5 Stops eating

6 "If \_\_\_ be so bold..."

7 Pre- \_\_\_ (H.S. math class)

8 One of three U.S. states to host the Winter

Olympics

9 Non-participant

10 Full of bad taste?

11 Bonzo, in "Bedtime for Bonzo"

12 Hither and \_\_\_

13 Bug of the varieties sugar, fire, and yellow

crazy

21 \_\_\_ Angeleno

22 Ripken and Ripken, Jr. for two

25 Made an ass of oneself?

26 Seek retribution

27 Murano maker

28 Fluff out, like hair or a sleeve

29 Stage comeback?

30 Give rise to

31 1985 film memoir of journalist Nicholas

## Tom the DANCING BUG



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&amp; BIT FUNNIES

I TOTALLY BLASTED  
MY GLUTES THIS MORNING!  
THEY ARE RIPPED!!!

THAT'S TIGHT LIKE  
NICKELBACK!

When performing a  
unilateral exercise, begin  
with the weaker side first.

I HAVE NEVER  
KNOWN A LOVE  
LIKE THIS!

## INTERSECTIONS • PHOTOS OF OUR NEIGHBOURHOODS



A golfer crosses Rowland Drive at the Riverside Golf Course just east of Dawson Bridge as the sun rises on Wednesday August 6, 2008.

PHOTO BY IAN JACKSON

**t6c**

FIRST PERSON • EDMONTON STORIES • BY DONNA MCKINNON | 778 words

# { Apocalypse Now }

WITH MY TV ON THE FRITZ, I QUICKLY BECAME ACQUAINTED WITH THE FIVE STAGES OF GRIEF

It's the fourth day of my holidays. I have a stack of DVDs—borrowed, rented, and newly purchased—sitting on top of my knotty pine wall unit. My videocassette is full of *Daily Shows* and *Colbert Reports* I've not had the time to watch. The sliding doors are open, exposing a modest but dependable television set, my channel clicker is poised in hand for a quick check of the weather.

Click.

Nothing.

Click.

Still nothing.

Shit.

I press the power button on the TV set. I press it again. With failing optimism, I check the web of cords and wires behind the TV. Everything is plugged in. All the other electronic machinery blinks to life, but the TV remains as dead as a duck in a Fort McMurray tailings pond.

I immediately plunge into the Kübler-Ross five stages of grief, the

first one being *Denial*. *This is not happening.*

I stand... I sit... I employ different angles and pressures hoping some sort of *Cirque du Soleil* move will inspire the TV back to life. It just doesn't seem real; there were no pops or bangs; no flashes of primary colours. Where's the smoke and the burning wood smell? Or am I just being nostalgic for mahogany consoles of my youth? My current TV is neither new nor fancy; I purchased it in the '90s when I was still making student loan payments and bowing to modernity by replacing all my '80s vinyl with CDs. (Well, maybe not *all* my vinyl. Sorry, *Adam Ant*. Sorry, *Oingo Boingo*.) A TV was just another piece of technology that had to be replaced, and as long *Mulder* and *Scully* came through clearly, I couldn't have cared less about the particulars.

As the realization dawned that my television had most likely shuffled

off this mortal coil, the second phase of grief set in: *Bargaining*. *I promise I won't spend endless hours channel-surfing with my male-pattern clicker dexterity. I promise I won't watch Celebrity Rehab anymore.*

I've always viewed people who choose to live without television with great suspicion. TV-less people are kind of strange, like babies. Ever try to engage a baby in a pop cultural discussion? Say, debating Kirk vs. Picard, or whether the fact that the creators and star of *My Name Is Earl* are Scientologists has negatively influenced the writing, especially in the third season? Forget it. You just get one big (though sweetly naive) blank stare.

As understimulated hour after understimulated hour ticks by, I discover that living without TV, even temporarily, changes everything. What the hell is a couch for if not watching movies? Sweet Chili Gourmet Brown Rice Crisps lose their delight without an accompanying *New Release*. In fact, all snack items have lost their purpose. Sure, I've been known to pop a peanut M&M (or 40) while reading my latest bookstore find, but generally speaking, snacks go with television and movies, and vice versa.

My whole world is falling apart. And here comes stage three: *Anger*. *How am I supposed to eat dinner without CTV's Carrie and Daryl?* Without the news, dinner is just a

stupid salad and a soggy quesadilla eaten with more "mindfulness" than is ever necessary. I don't know how to eat alone without television! Man, I am learning way too much about myself.

*Depression. What stage is that? Oh, I don't care.*

I still try to look for meaning in tragedy, and some might say a busted TV is God's way of telling me to find a more useful way to spend my time. Well, I already walk hours every day, and reading is not an issue, judging by the stacks of books strewn across my floor and jammed into every available space. Even if you add relationships, meals, bathroom breaks, work, and cat-grooming to the list, there are still plenty of hours left in the day, so maybe God isn't saying anything at all, and if he is, I can think of no better reason to own a TV than to distract you from the voices in your own head.

*I guess it is just bad luck. This must be the last stage, Acceptance.*

Three days later: I now have a spanking new 26" wide-screen stereo television with digital and high-definition capability. I also have a brand new bank loan that not only spans, I had to say "Thank you sir, may I have some more?" to an assembly of loan officers as I signed the papers. But it was worth it. Now where are those chips? I think *Celebrity Rehab* is on.

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